

## PNA claims Israel using prisoners to test drugs

ABU DHABI (AP) — A senior Palestinian official claimed that Israel is testing drugs on Palestinian prisoners, a charge that Israel dismissed Tuesday as "utter nonsense." Yasser Abed Rabbo, the Palestinian minister of information, said Israel's health ministry issued 1,000 licences to pharmaceutical companies "to test dangerous drugs on Palestinian and other Arab prisoners." In Jerusalem, a spokesman for the health ministry dismissed the claim. "The story is utter nonsense," spokesman Yair Amikam said. "Not only do we not conduct experiments on Palestinian prisoners, we do not conduct experiments on prisoners at all," according to the Israeli B'Tselem human rights group, there are 2,964 Palestinians in Israeli jails.

# Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية إسرائيلية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

## Turkey will not recognise Al Azhar degrees

ANKARA (R) — Secular Turkey has withdrawn recognition of degrees issued by Cairo's Al Azhar University, Turkish education officials said Tuesday. "Its educational standards were insufficient," a spokesman for Turkey's supreme educational board told Reuters. Turkish television recently highlighted what it said were verbal attacks on Turkey's secularist founder Kemal Ataturk by Arab students at Al Azhar. Turkey's government, backed by the armed forces, has embarked on a drive to reduce the influence of Islam in public life, particularly in education. The Milliyet daily said dozens of Turkish students currently studying at Al Azhar would not have their degrees recognised. Turkey's parliament this month passed an education reform bill which will severely restrict religious education in secondary schools.

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Price: Jordan 200 Fils

## Jordan switches to winter time next month

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will shift to winter time as of Friday 19 September, when the clock will be switched back 60 minutes to run two hours ahead of Greenwich. Meantime, according to a decision made by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

## Majali to solve municipality money problems

IRBID (Petra) — During a visit to the Irbid Municipality, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Tuesday said the government, upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein, will solve the financial problems facing local municipalities throughout the Kingdom. The prime minister did not elaborate on the mechanism of solving such problems.

## U.S. to deploy squadron of planes in Bahrain

MANAMA (AFP) — The U.S. is to deploy a squadron of planes in the Gulf state of Bahrain for a month beginning in September, Gulf News Agency (GNA) reported Tuesday. GNA quoting an unidentified foreign ministry source, said the squadron of U.S. military aircraft would be stationed in the Gulf state from September 19 to October 20. The U.S. Fifth Fleet, which enforces a "no fly zone" for Iraqi aircraft over southern Iraq, has its headquarters in Bahrain.

## Sixty-four villagers massacred in Algeria

BENI ALI (AFP) — Sixty-four villagers were massacred in a dawn attack Tuesday on Beni Ali, in the mountains south of Algiers, witnesses who escaped the slaughter told AFP. They said 30 women were among the victims and that another four women were abducted by the assailants. The Chrea mountain region where the latest attack took place, 60 kilometres south of Algiers, has been the scene of numerous previous massacres blamed on Islamists. Since Sunday, according to preliminary figures, 181 people have died in a series of village massacres and a bomb attack in the capital Algiers.

## Turkish Maoist guerrillas kill civilian

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Maoist guerrillas have shot dead a farmer in the latest political killing of a civilian in a mountainous eastern province, security officials said Tuesday. They said the body of Hidir Ucar, 45, was found with a bullet in the head in Tunceli province Monday, three days after he was abducted from his home by Turkish Workers and Peasants' Liberation Army (TIKKO) rebels who threatened to punish him for "collaborating with state forces". The organisation shot dead another civilian three weeks ago in an execution-style killing. Kurdish rebels have killed two civilians in Tunceli in the last month for allegedly helping the security forces, security officials say. The rugged province is a stronghold of Kurdistan Workers Party guerrillas, fighting for Kurdish self rule since 1984. More than 26,000 people have died in the conflict.

# Jordan-U.S. sign agreements worth over \$100m in assistance

By Amy Henderson  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf Humadi and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan yesterday signed three agreements on a U.S. government grant worth more than \$100 million in economic and development assistance to Jordan.

"These three documents have been in the works for some time now," said Mr. Egan, "and today, Jordan is receiving the final tranche of the health care and family planning grant as well

as funds from the Middle East fund... that is allocated exclusively for Jordan during this fiscal year."

One hundred million dollars have been made available to Jordan this year under the Middle East Peace and Stability Fund, which was announced by U.S. President Bill Clinton during HRH Crown Prince Hassan's visit to Washington D.C. in June. Mr. Clinton said the fund is meant to "respond to urgent new needs in the Middle East."

This year, Jordan will enjoy exclusive access to the fund which draws its

resources from the "redirection of a small percentage of the economic support" allocated to Israel and Egypt.

The first \$50 million will support the country's balance of payments to help reduce Jordan's international debt burden, and is part of a USAID initiative to increase economic opportunities in the Kingdom.

This agreement follows a debt rescheduling agreement signed Monday on \$58 million in loans owed to the United States. The rescheduling is a provision

of an agreement reached in May with the creditors of the Paris Club to reschedule approximately \$400 million of Jordanian debt falling due in the coming two years.

The second \$50 million available under the Peace and Stability Fund will be channelled to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to develop and implement water projects.

According to Mr. Egan, the efforts initiated under this grant will focus mainly on improving wastewater

(Continued on page 7)

# Haddadin, Sharon discuss water desalination project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin on Tuesday discussed with Israeli minister of infrastructure, Ariel Sharon, scopes of cooperation in order to launch projects to develop the Jordan Rift Valley.

During the meeting in Tel Aviv which was attended by Jordan's Ambassador to Israel Omar Rifai, Mr. Haddadin and Mr. Sharon reviewed efforts to launch a project to desalinate water and lessen the rate of pollution in the Jordan River.

Jordan announced Satur-

day that it intends to build a diversion dam at Adasieh, an area located between Jordanian and Israeli lands in order to divert its own share of the water of the Yarmouk River to the King Abdullah Canal.

It is not yet clear if the two ministries will be discussing this project.

The Arab League has slammed the Israeli project as a new "provocation" to the Arab world by Israel, on the basis that the dam will be built on Syrian occupied land.

Foreign Minister Faysal Tarawneh said that "Jordan

has no intention of building a dam with Israel on land claimed by Syria."

And AFP reported Dr. Haddadin describing the Israeli plan as a "fantasy that falls outside of any reality."

The dam's construction is stipulated in an annex to the Jordan-Israel peace treaty of 1994 and states that the two countries will cooperate on building a dam to trap and divert water of the Yarmouk River near Adasieh. The dam will be used to store water before it is channelled into the King Abdullah Canal.

# PNA budget deficit to leap 800 per cent due to closure

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The budget deficit of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) for this year will leap 800 per cent due to heavy economic sanctions imposed by Israel, Commerce Minister Maher Masri said on Tuesday.

"The deficit in the budget will rise this year to \$400 million, up from the \$1.7 million forecast in the budget preparations, due to the effects of the Israeli closure," Mr. Masri told journalists in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

The PNA will therefore be "unable to fulfil its functions even if Israel does return the money it

has frozen," he said. In the wake of a July 30 suicide bombing in Jerusalem, Israel imposed a security seal on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and refused to hand over some \$40 million in Palestinian taxes it had collected for transfer to the authority's coffers.

It has since eased the closure to allow most Palestinian merchandise to pass into Israel and released 30 per cent of the funds, but it refuses to lift the bulk of the sanctions until Mr. Arafat launches a crackdown against Islamists.

Mr. Masri said the PNA had prepared a plan to gradually reduce the Pales-

tinians' dependence on Israeli products, which currently make up 95 per cent of imports into the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We will do this by replacing Israeli products with Palestinian ones or imports from Arab countries and take the rest of the world," he said.

He said a Palestinian boycott launched last week against Israeli products was "going ahead successfully."

The PNA has attempted to bar from entry into the territories a list of 15 Israeli products which in total normally sell \$500 million worth a year in the West Bank and Gaza.

# Israeli tear gas floods Palestinian girls school, hospitalising many children

Sharon says closure hurts Israel, should be lifted

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN SCHOOL girls got into the middle of a clash between stone throwers and Israeli soldiers Tuesday when several tear gas canisters fell near their classrooms, sending the students fleeing the scene, crying and coughing.

About a dozen third and fourth graders in grey and green uniforms were treated for tear gas inhalation and all 650 students were evacuated from the school. Five Palestinian stone throwers were injured by rubber bullets fired by Israeli troops.

The incident occurred at a time when the economically painful clampdown has been drawing increasing criticism from both outside and in Israel, including a rare protest from Israeli infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, a leading hawk who said the closure was harming Israel's economy by depriving it of needed labourers.

As an alternative, Israel should revoke "VIP cards" used by some 400 Palestinian officials to travel freely



Palestinian schoolgirls cover their mouths and noses as they evacuate the Bethlehem Elementary Girls School Tuesday after tear gas fired by Israeli soldiers drifted into the school building. Israeli soldiers shot many rounds of gas when several Palestinian boys began throwing stones at their position near the Jewish shrine of Rachel's Tomb (Reuters photo)

into Israel, Mr. Sharon said, quoted by Israel radio.

Bethlehem has been the scene of daily protests this week against the Israeli

## Arafat says time is right for awaited Albright visit

Palestinian president takes talk of Israeli 'hit squads' ready to assassinate him 'seriously'

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT Yasser Arafat Tuesday said that security ties with Israel had improved to an extent that would enable a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Ms. Albright has conditioned making her first visit to the Middle East on a build-up in Israeli-Palestinian security cooperation which was disrupted by a crisis over Jewish settlement expansion and a surge in violence.

Asked if there was

enough security cooperation for Ms. Albright to visit, Mr. Arafat told reporters in the self-ruled Gaza Strip, "definitely and we have a witness, an American witness."

Agents of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency have been joining security talks between Israeli and Palestinian officials launched during a visit this month by U.S. special Middle East envoy Dennis Ross.

Israel has demanded Mr. Arafat crack down on

(Continued on page 7)

# Golan Druze strike over Israeli policies

MAJDEEL SHAMS (AFP) — Druze residents on the Golan Heights burned fires and closed their businesses Tuesday in protest at what they called harsh Israeli policies on the occupied plateau, witnesses said. "Dozens of youths protested in the streets during the general strike," Shams, the main Druze town on the strategic heights occupied by Israel from Syria in

1967. Some 15,000 Druze live on the Golan Heights and have refused to recognise Israeli sovereignty over the area. Israeli army radio quoted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as reaffirming Tuesday during a visit to Japan that his government will never agree to return the entire Golan Heights to Syria. He has not, however, ruled out the possibility of small territorial concessions on the

# Israel releases Palestinian police officer

TULKAREM (AFP) — A Palestinian police officer said Tuesday his innocence had been proven after Israeli security services released him from a month's detention on suspicion of planning attacks on Jewish settlers.

Munir Abusbi said he was released from Israeli detention Monday night and returned to Tulkarem, a town in the northern West Bank where he serves as the deputy chief of police.

"The issue of my arrest in the three-way security mechanism with Israel and the Americans," Mr. Abusbi said. Mr. Abusbi was arrested on July 15 at an army road-block set up especially to catch him. Israel said he was suspected of planning attacks on settlers in the Tulkarem area on orders from Palestinian police chief Ghazi Al Jabali.

"Throughout 40 days of interrogation I maintained my innocence and told them there was no truth at all to the charges. The Palestinian police have clear orders to protect everyone's security, Israeli and Palestinian," he said. "I have been released and my innocence is assured."

The day before Mr. Abusbi's arrest, soldiers arrested three other Palestinian policemen outside Nablus who Israel said were on their way to attack a nearby settlement. The arrests raised a storm of protests from Israel and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demanding that

# Six arrested trying to run weapons across the border

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Police announced the arrest of six people, including a woman and an Israeli national, who allegedly were attempting to smuggle automatic weapons and guns to the West Bank via the Dead Sea area, officials confirmed Tuesday.

According to an official source, the group, whom he would not identify, were apprehended by Jordanian authorities last week with the weapons in their possession.

"The group hid the weapons in pieces of clothing, which they brought from an area in the Kingdom," the official said without further elaboration. The source said that the authorities received a tip about the group, put them under surveillance, and arrested them while attempting to smuggle the weapons.

He added that five of them met with the Israeli man recently in a tourist area at the Dead Sea, and after several visits, they decided to smuggle the weapons. The source stipulated that the group "probably planned to sell the weapons."

According to the source, the group of six was transferred to the State Security Court Prosecutor for questioning.



## Turkey's Welfare Party charged with embezzling Libyan money for Chechens

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish prosecutors have launched a fresh investigation into charges the former ruling Islamist Welfare Party had embezzled Libyan money sent for independence-seeking Chechens in Russia, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi had sent \$10 million to Welfare officials for aid to the Chechen rebels, but most of the money never reached them, the liberal Istanbul daily Hurriyet said, quoting legal sources.

Aides to Welfare leader and former Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan categorically denied the charge, saying the allegation was "ridiculous and part of a plot to defame" the party.

Hurriyet said a Libyan diplomat last year brought the money to Welfare officials here for delivery to the Chechens.

But only a two-million-dollar portion of the money was given to the rebels some time later, with Welfare authorities embezzling the rest, Hurriyet said.

"This claim is untrue, absurd and illogical," Welfare's deputy leader Abdul

### Yilmaz asks army to leave Islamists to him

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz has urged the secularist military to leave a fight against Islamist activism to his coalition government.

"This issue is actually the government's duty and our government is aware of this," Anadolu News Agency quoted Mr. Yilmaz as saying on NTV television channel Monday night.

Mr. Yilmaz said the army's key task is to ensure the security of the state and its borders, and ensure national security.

"The armed forces, which are already loaded with the heavy burden of defending the nation and fighting terrorism, do not have to make any special effort on [Islamist activism]."

Mr. Yilmaz replaced Islamist Necmettin Erbakan as prime minister in June at the head of a left-right coalition of secularists. Mr. Erbakan resigned under pressure from the generals after a stormy year in office.

Yilmaz's deputy leader Abdul Qadir Aksu told reporters here. "Their aim is to undermine Welfare."

Ankara's state security court prosecutors, whom Hurriyet said were investigating the allegation, failed to comment on the matter.

During the Chechen war between late 1994 and last year, Russia had accused Ankara of failing to prevent Islamist or ethnic Caucasian groups here from sending arms and volunteers in support of the rebels, a claim denied by the Turkish foreign ministry.

Mr. Erbakan's Welfare is already facing a possible ban by the constitutional court, Turkey's highest judiciary body authorized to

close parties violating the constitution.

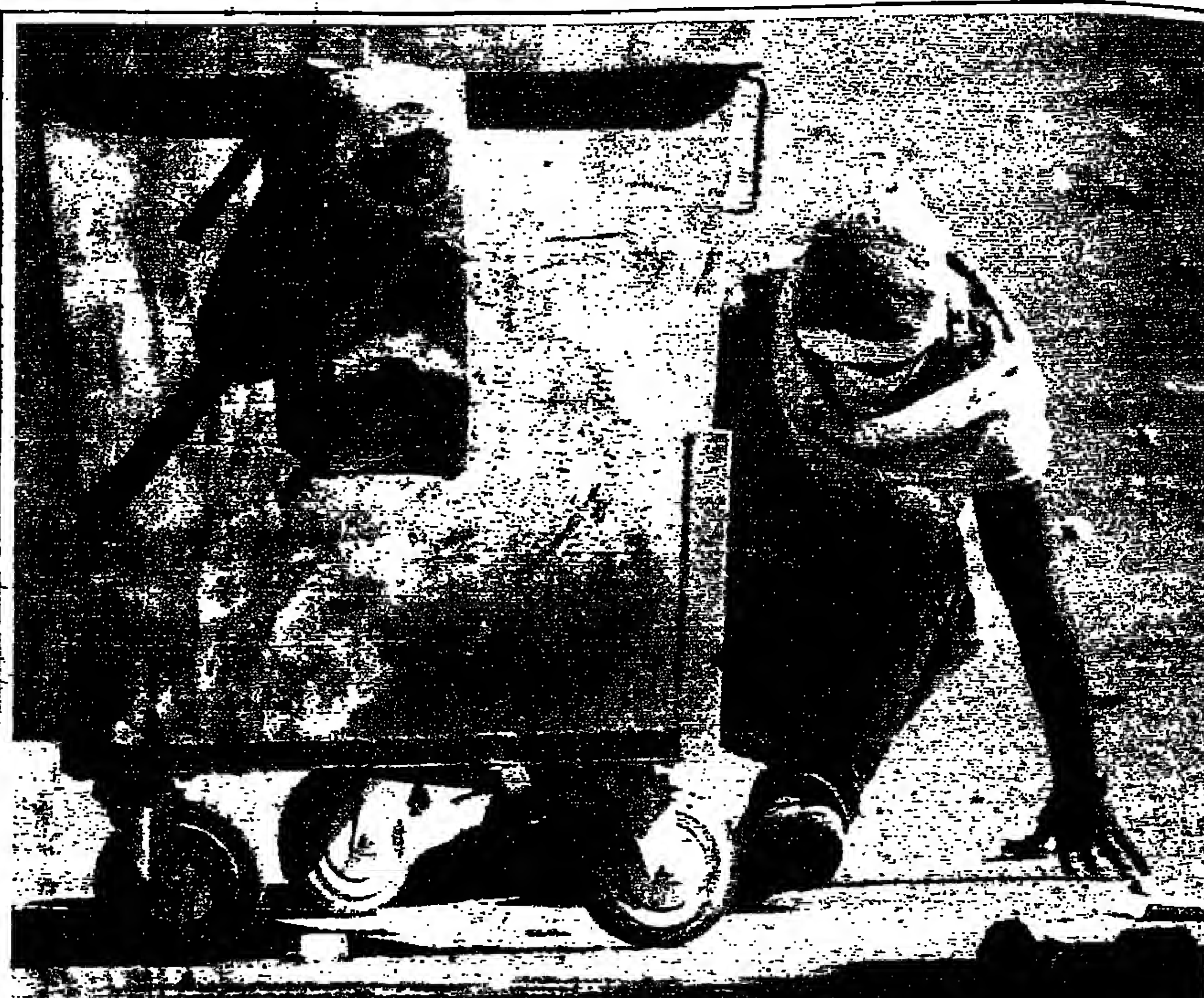
A showdown with powerful pro-secular army generals over Islamist's increasing influence in this mainly Muslim state led to the resignation of Mr. Erbakan's one-year-old Islamist-led government on June 18. He was replaced by conservative Mesut Yilmaz.

Amid the army-Islamist power struggle, the high court in early June launched legal proceedings against Welfare that could lead to the group's closure and a political ban on its leaders.

In their request to ban Welfare, prosecutors accused the party of "undermining Turkey's secular regime and bringing the country to the brink of civil war."

The constitutional court is expected to hear Welfare's final defence in September and announce its decision on the party's fate in November.

Earlier this year, some Turkish newspapers alleged that Mr. Erbakan was a leading member of an "Islamist army" led by Mr. Qaddafi, a claim denied by Welfare.



**JERUSALEM STONE-THROWER:** A masked Palestinian stone-thrower goes down for a few seconds after being hit by a rubber bullet shot by Israeli soldiers near the Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem Tuesday. Some 40 students in a nearby girls junior high school were taken into hospital for treatment after the soldiers fired teargas into the schoolyard. The last days have seen daily confrontations between Palestinian youths and Israeli soldiers as protests grow because of Israeli refusal to lift the closure imposed on Bethlehem for the past four weeks (AFP photo)

## Israel frees Palestinian on condition he leave for the Netherlands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian detained by Israel for nearly two years without trial was ordered released Tuesday, but only after agreeing to spend the next four years in the Netherlands, officials said.

Under a compromise reached Tuesday at a supreme court hearing, Imad Soubeh is to be freed from jail Thursday and immediately placed on a flight for Amsterdam, court officials said.

Mr. Soubeh agreed to stay

in the Netherlands for four years, during which he will study for a doctorate, they said.

Mr. Soubeh, 35, was a translator at Bir Zeit university in the West Bank when he was arrested in December 1995 for belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a left-wing movement opposed to peace accords signed by the PLO with Israel.

He was one of nearly 400 Palestinians being held without trial by Israel under a

controversial "administrative detention" statute which does not require the state to reveal its evidence against suspects.

Because of the secrecy imposed by Israel on their cases, most administrative detainees remain unknown to the general public.

But Mr. Soubeh broke the wall of silence with an unusual exchange of letters with an Israeli reserve army lieutenant, Yuval Dotan,

who was himself detained for a month last year for refusing to guard administrative

detainees.

The two men's correspondence was revealed last week in a Palestinian newspaper and gained prominent coverage this week in the Israeli press.

"This is a victory for the Israeli intellectuals who fought for his release," said Tamar Peleg, Mr. Soubeh's attorney, after the decision to release him.

Mr. Soubeh denied belonging to the PFLP and demanded in a supreme court hearing last year to be released so he

could study in the Netherlands, where he had been offered a government scholarship to a doctoral programme.

The request was rejected after the Israeli security services claimed Mr. Soubeh would still present a danger to Israel from Holland.

The Dutch foreign ministry responded with a communiqué saying Mr. Soubeh was welcome in the country.

Israeli human rights groups and leading intellectuals have long fought to end the practice of administrative detention, which security forces defend as necessary to prevent terrorist activities by persons against whom they do not have sufficient evidence for a formal indictment.

The number of administrative detainees jumped significantly in the past month with nearly 150 new prisoners arrested in connection with investigations into the double suicide bombing in Jerusalem which killed 16 people.

## Algiers reaffirms tough anti-terrorism stance

ALGIERS (AFP) — The Algerian government reaffirmed its determination Tuesday to stamp out terrorism in the wake of a series of massacres in the past two days that reportedly left more than 100 dead, a spokesman said.

The government — reinforced and supported by popular will, the determination of the security forces and the mobilisation of all patriots — reiterates its commitment to pursue the struggle against terrorism," said government spokesman Habib Chawki Hamrouni, cited by the official APS agency.

"Patriots" is the name given to the vigilante groups set up with government backing to defend villages from attacks by armed Islamist gangs.

Suspected Islamists have slaughtered at least 117 people in village massacres across Algeria and a bomb attack in the capital Algiers over the last two days, according to the press here.

Mr. Hamrouni called the recent massacres "inhuman acts," adding that they had been carried out against ordinary people "to demolish the population and damage the image of Algeria."

He also underlined the government's commitment to "accomplishing all its objectives on national recovery," and appealed to Algerians to exercise more vigilance in the fight against terrorism.

Algeria has been gripped by an insurgency since the military intervened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of elections the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win, and subsequently outlawed the party.

Tens of thousands of Algerians demonstrated last Wednesday against the violence, following a speech by President Liamine Zeroul in which he asserted that "terrorism was living its last hours."

However, the government has repeatedly claimed it is dealing with only "residual terrorism" during the past year, yet there has been no let-up in the cycle of violence.

The recent upsurge — with unofficial figures suggesting that around 560 civilians have been killed since July 15 — may be linked to the forthcoming local elections, scheduled for October 23.

## Iran's new foreign minister says ready to meet EU officials

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's new Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi was quoted Tuesday as saying he was ready to meet European counterparts to discuss strained relations.

Mr. Kharrazi told the English language Iran News daily that he was willing to meet EU ministers during the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York next month.

"I'll meet with them if they so wish," he said. "I have no problem with meeting any European foreign minister and I'm ready to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the general assembly and meet with all my counterparts. If they so wish."

"During my meeting with

EU officials I would be able to present the realities in Iran and at the same time get informed about their views," he told the paper.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA Monday night quoted Mr. Kharrazi as making similar comments on Europe. It said he was talking to reporters following a farewell ceremony for former Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati in Tehran.

Mr. Kharrazi, Iran's former ambassador to the United Nations, said in the newspaper interview Iran had "historical ties with EU member countries and we have had our shares in our relations with them."

"A fact borne out by history

is that as long as both sides follow a policy of mutual respect, their mutual interests will be served," he said.

All EU states except Greece recalled their ambassadors from Tehran after a German court ruled in April that Iran's top leaders had ordered the 1992 assassination of four Kurdish dissidents in a Berlin restaurant.

Iran, which strongly rejected the court's verdict, has said the EU envoys could return to Tehran but has indicated the German ambassador must be the last.

Iran's new President Mohammad Khatami, a moderate Shiite Muslim cleric, has said he wanted to bring about "an active and

fresh presence" in Iran's foreign policy to "defuse tensions."

One of the first challenges will be to reach an agreement with the EU ambassadors to return to Tehran, analysts say. European diplomats in Tehran say efforts were still under way to find a face-saving formula for the speedy return of the German envoy at the same time as other EU heads of mission.

Mr. Kharrazi told Iran News that Tehran was willing to cooperate with other countries to combat terrorism.

"The Islamic republic is ready to cooperate with other countries for combating terrorism," he said. "Iran will cooperate with other coun-

tries to counter terrorism no matter in what form that menace is."

"The new government in Iran is ready to talk with other countries in order to remove any misunderstanding, to build mutual confidence, to eliminate tension and to promote peace and stability in the region and the world as a whole," he said.

A U.S. State Department spokesman last week said "terrorism" was one of the issues, together with Tehran's opposition to the Middle East peace process and its alleged desire for nuclear weapons. Washington would be willing to have conditional talks on with Iranian officials.

Mr. Kharrazi did not men-

tion the U.S. in the interview. The United States has alleged that Tehran sponsors international terrorism, a charge repeatedly denied by Iran.

The two arch-foes have had no relations since 1980 and Iran's media has stressed that Mr. Khatami's new government did not mean a change in Iran's stance towards Washington.

Mr. Kharrazi also said he would work to improve Tehran's ties with regional Gulf Arab states who are wary of Tehran's military intentions in the regions. The oil-rich states have also accused Iran of interfering in their internal affairs. Iran denied that.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

TEL 773111-19  
PROGRAMME TWO  
14:10 .....Cartoons  
15:00 .....Global Gardener  
15:30 .....Spell Binder  
16:00 .....Monsters Today  
16:30 .....Border Town  
17:00 .....French Programmes  
19:00 .....News in French  
19:30 .....News Headlines  
19:35 .....Neighbours  
20:00 .....Soldier's Diary  
20:30 .....Oraph Winfrey Show  
21:10 .....Spencer For Hire  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:30 .....Land's End  
23:15 .....American Gothic

### PRAYER TIMES

04:41 .....Fajr  
06:02 .....(Sunrise)Duhā  
12:37 .....Dhuhr  
16:14 .....Asr  
19:12 .....Maghreb  
20:34 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swefieh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Amman International Church Tel. 5516245  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Fine weather conditions will prevail with temperatures lower than average by 4 degrees centigrade, clouds appearing at low altitudes, and winds westerly moderate. There will be a gradual rise in temperatures during the weekend. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Amman .....17/28  
Aqaba .....23/37  
Desert .....16/32  
Jordan Valley .....22/36

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 27, Aqaba 36  
Humidity readings: Amman

38 per cent. Aqaba 35 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
Dr. Nasser .....75344  
Dr. Shaloom Khatib .....75715  
Dr. Nabil Al-Jarrah .....751672  
Dr. Hassan Asmar .....590304  
Firas Pharmacy .....65972  
Ferdous Pharmacy .....890280  
Al Asma Pharmacy .....637055  
Al Salim Pharmacy .....636730  
Yacoub Pharmacy .....644945  
Shmeisani Pharmacy 637660  
Nairoukh Pharmacy .....623672  
Najib Pharmacy .....847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir .....276854  
Al Quds Pharmacy .....(---)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Nabil Safarini .....901323  
Khalifeh Pharmacy .....985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade .....617101  
Blood Bank .....775121  
Highway Police .....843402  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Department

630321  
Hotel Complaints .....605800  
Price Complaints .....661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623104  
Abdali Telephone Repairs .....661104  
Jordan Television .....773111  
Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power Company 636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

630321  
Hotel Complaints .....605800  
Price Complaints .....661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121  
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Water Authority .....680100  
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Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power Company 636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6  
Akileh Maternity, 642411/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman .....636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6

Italian, Al-Mohajir 77101/2  
Al-Bashir .....775111/26  
Army, Marka .....891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50  
Amal Hospital .....674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199  
ZARQA:  
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Zarqa National Hospital (09)908560  
The Birat Hospital (09)86732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990  
EBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital 021272275  
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital 021247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Baya Hospital (03)314111

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### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.  
Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)  
Flights:  
08:05 .....Damascus (RJ)  
09:25 .....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
09:30 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
10:45 .....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
12:15 .....Kuala Lumpur, Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)  
13:20 .....Larnaca (RJ)  
15:55 .....New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:30 .....Madrid (RJ)  
17:40 .....Toronto, Montreal (RJ)  
18:05 .....Paris (RJ)  
18:40 .....Brussels, Geneva (RJ)  
19:10 .....Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
19:45 .....Dhahran (add) (RJ)  
20:00 .....Rome (RJ)  
00:15 .....Beirut (RJ)  
01:05 .....Cairo (RJ)  
02:55 .....Riyadh (add) (RJ)  
04:25 .....Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
08:30 .....Madrid, Brussels, Larnaca (add) (RJ)

### Other Flights

09:15 .....Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)  
11:00 .....Sanaa, Hudaiddah (IY)  
11:50 .....Kuwait (KU)  
12:00 .....Jeddah (SV)  
13:10 .....Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF)  
13:15 .....Cairo (MS)  
13:50 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
14:30 .....Tunis (TU)  
14:30 .....Al'Arish (add) (PF)  
15:05 .....Vienna (OS)  
16:20 .....Algiers (AH)

16:30 .....Dubai (EK)  
17:00 .....Doha (QR)  
19:30 .....Istanbul, Damascus (PK)  
20:40 .....London (GA)  
21:10 .....Beirut (ME)  
21:10 .....Paris, Damascus (AF)  
23:20 .....Istanbul (TK)  
23:25 .....Amsterdam (KL)  
23:30 .....Athens (OA)  
05:15 .....Ankara (TK)  
07:50 .....Amsterdam (GA)

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23:25 .....Amsterdam (KL)  
23:30 .....Athens (OA)  
05:15 .....Ankara (TK)  
07:50 .....Amsterdam (GA)

### DEPARTURES

09:00 .....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
10:00 .....Larnaca (RJ)  
11:45 .....Berlin, London (RJ)  
11:50 .....Rome (RJ)  
12:45 .....Istanbul (RJ)  
14:00 .....Dhahran (RJ)  
15:00 .....Madrid (RJ)  
20:10 .....Colombo (RJ)  
20:35 .....Beirut (RJ)  
21:00 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
21:10 .....Cairo (RJ)  
21:10 .....Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)  
21:15 .....Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
21:50 .....Aqaba (RW)

22:00 .....Riyadh (add) (RJ)  
22:20 .....Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
02:00 .....Sanaa (RJ)  
02:59 .....Bahrain (RJ)  
04:00 .....Jeddah (add) (RJ)

22:00 .....Riyadh (add) (RJ)  
22:20 .....Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
02:00 .....Sanaa (RJ)  
02:59 .....Bahrain (RJ)  
04:00 .....Jeddah (add) (RJ)

22:00 .....Riyadh (add) (RJ)  
22:20 .....Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
02:00 .....Sanaa (RJ)  
02:59 .....Bahrain (RJ)  
04:00 .....Jeddah (add) (RJ)

22:00 .....Riyadh (add) (RJ)  
22:20 .....Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
02:00 .....Sanaa (RJ)  
02:59 .....Bahrain (RJ)  
04:00 .....Jeddah (add) (RJ)

### Other Flights

06:50 .....Larnaca (CY)  
08:45 .....Beirut (ME)  
08:50 .....Amsterdam (GA)  
09:25 .....London (BA)  
10:00 .....Damascus, Istanbul (PK)  
12:00 .....Hudaiddah, Sanaa (IY)  
12:50 .....Kuwait (KU)  
13:30 .....Jeddah (SV)  
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15:50 .....Vienna (OS)  
17:20 .....Sharjah (AH)  
17:45 .....Dubai (EK)  
17:50 .....Doha (QR)  
20:15 .....Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)  
21:40 .....Denpasar (GA)  
23:55 .....Damascus, Paris (AF)  
00:25 .....Damascus, Amsterdam (KL)  
00:25 .....Ankara (TK)  
04:00 .....Athens (OA)  
06:15 .....Istanbul (TK)

### Royal Wings (RW)

07:45 .....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
09:15 .....Aqaba (RW)  
10:30 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
17:45 .....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
18:55 .....Tel Aviv (RW)  
21:30 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
21:50 .....A



**ON INSPECTION:** His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday inspected military units taking part in exercises carried out by formations from the Third Royal Armoured Division and the 12th Royal Mechanised Division. The Crown Prince called on soldiers and officers at the units to take advantage of available training opportunities. Prince Hassan stressed the importance of preparedness continuing education and training for both officers and non-commissioned officers to enable them to perform their duties efficiently and effectively (Jordan Armed Forces photo)



## Back to school preparations complete, says official

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education Tuesday announced it has made final preparations for the commencement of the 1997-1998 scholastic year.

Mahmoud Massad, director of General Education, said approximately 70,000 teachers will be employed for the 1,395,200 students, including 135,000 first graders, attending the public and private schools in the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Education received several "model" school buildings, complete with laboratories, libraries, and workshops, said Dr. Massad, adding that more than 90 per cent of existing classrooms have been refurbished, and the rest will be ready for the start of the school year on Sept. 1.

The ministry has also rented several schools in order to accommodate expansion and the annual growth in the number of students, and has readied scholastic textbooks, nor-

mally issued free of charge at the compulsory stage and sold at the secondary stage.

Dr. Massad said a plan for transferring and re-posting teachers in different governorates has been completed, explaining that 758 teachers were affected by the transfers.

A total of 760 new teachers have been added to last year's staff, he continued.

The ministry has issued new licences or renewals to 965 kindergartens, which will accommodate an estimated 71,963 children, according to Dr. Massad.

Approximately 3,240 nurseries will care for 4,485 children aged between one and three years, he said.

The ministry was intent on finalising preparations for the upcoming school year so that students can start taking lessons on the first day, he concluded.

## Palestinian delegation protests UNRWA services cutbacks

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing Palestinian refugees living in Jordan protested Tuesday to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) about the agency's reported decision to reduce services in its fields of operations.

The delegation called on UNRWA Director in Jordan Gunnar Lofberg and handed him a memorandum expressing the refugees' denunciation of the agency's intention to adopt austerity measures, represented by imposing tuition fees on UNRWA school students, freezing jobs, scrapping a system of hospital coverage for refugees, and cancelling grants to students pursuing higher education.

The memorandum also condemned the agency's decision to appoint 249 additional teachers in its fields of operations in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, and asked that UNRWA's annual budget be linked to the permanent

budget of the U.N.

The Jordanian government Saturday said it rejects any reduction of the social, health, and educational services offered to refugees by UNRWA and urged the donor nations to contribute more to help meet the agency's estimated \$26 million deficit for the 1997 fiscal year.

A spokesman for the delegation of refugees, Abdul Aziz Saqr, said the UNRWA director expressed his understanding and sympathy towards the refugees' demands and promised to convey their remarks to the commissioner general who, he said, will no doubt include them in his annual report to the U.N. General Assembly's upcoming meeting in October.

Mr. Saqr expressed thanks to the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry for its continued efforts to help maintain UNRWA's services until a permanent solution for the refugees' problem has been found.

## Committee recommends immediate steps to clean up environment

AMMAN (Petra) — A committee of ministers set up to find ways of disposing of dangerous waste Tuesday received a detailed report on the environmental situation in the Kingdom, and proposed that the government immediately allocate JD 3.5 million to execute an emergency plan to deal with the waste problem.

The committee members, comprising the ministers of health, interior, energy and mineral resources, agriculture, and tourism, called for a dump site at Swaga to receive poisonous waste and a Wadi Qattar site to handle medical waste.

The committee members, after watching a video detailing the manner in which hazardous waste is

being dumped near environmentally sensitive areas, suggested that Amman municipality allocate JD 500,000 to help create the Wadi Qattar site, which would receive waste coming from the governorates of Zarqa, Balqa, and Madaba, in addition to medical waste from hospitals.

The video, documenting operations occurring either at night or early in the morning, showed trucks dumping hazardous materials from at least 50 factories in the Amman region and other areas, as well as liquid waste, on an estimated 20 dunams of land in the Wadi Qattar district.

The committee recommended that the government arrange for the Industrial Development Bank

(IDB) to grant a 10-year JD 2 million loan to the General Corporation for the Protection of the Environment to assist Jordanian industries in disposing of waste.

The corporation will repay the loan from fees charged to institutions disposing of waste.

The committee also requested that the Ministry of Public Works and Housing construct a 60-kilometre road, estimated to cost JD 700,000, linking the Swaga dump with the industrial zone near Amman in order to allow trucks carrying waste to bypass the residential areas of Amman.

Minister of Health Ashraf Kurdi said there was need for a comprehensive national plan to deal with this

problem and to assign standard dumping sites for dangerous waste.

He added that his ministry has been receiving numerous complaints from the public about waste dumping in the Amman and Zarqa regions.

Minister of Interior Nafith Rashid said the Council of Ministers should make available the required funds for the preparation of these dumping sites, adding that the local governors will be required to ensure compliance of environmental regulations by industries.

Minister of Tourism Akel Biltaji and Minister of Agriculture Mijhem Khreisha expressed concerns that illegal dumping could harm tourism and agriculture.

## Brotherhood asks for Majali's resignation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Accusing the government of not being seriously committed to an unconditional dialogue with the opposition, the Muslim Brotherhood has asked for Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali's resignation.

"If the government is not serious about establishing a framework for dialogue, it should go home," demanded the title of the latest issue of the Muslim Brotherhood's Al Sabeel weekly, published on Tuesday.

Muslim Brotherhood overall leader Abdul Majid Thneibat was quoted by Al Sabeel as "deeply regretting the government's non-serious attitude towards dialogue," and accused the prime minister of hiding behind the "collective dialogue" formula in order to avoid a direct confrontation with the Islamists.

Mr. Thneibat reportedly said the pro-boycott parties — the Muslim Brotherhood's political arm, the Islamic Action Front, as well as four other smaller opposition parties — had agreed with the prime minister that dialogue would be conducted without preconditions, and all that was left was the scheduling of a date.

"However, the government improvised a new strategy, a so-called 'collective dialogue' which includes all political parties," Mr. Thneibat was quoted as saying by Al Sabeel.

"We are not against dialogue with the government, and we are not against the government conducting dialogue with whoever it wants, but we perceive ourselves as having a cause, and such dialogue should

be conducted directly with us," Mr. Thneibat reportedly said.

The "collective dialogue" is a "mere attempt by the government to preserve its public image," Al Sabeel wrote.

"The government is not confronting the crisis and is trying to preserve its public image by appearing as if it [were] making concessions," Mr. Thneibat reportedly accused.

Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi on Saturday announced that the government will start a second round of negotiations with opposition parties next week, in a bid to persuade them to rescind their decision to boycott the Nov. 4 polls.

Meanwhile, informed sources told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the

issuance of a Royal Decree dissolving Parliament as of Sept. 1 was imminent. The sources said that the subject of the dissolution of the 12th Parliament was discussed between Dr. Majali and Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour during the premier's visit to Mr. Srour's office on Monday.

In what has been interpreted by the Muslim Brotherhood as a "change of strategy" and a step back on the original agreements with them, Dr. Majali this week involved a pro-government party and the anti-boycott opposition parties in a "national dialogue" on electoral participation.

The premier met with five non-boycotting opposition parties and with the National Constitutional Party on Sunday and Monday, respectively.

## Translation problems discussed at conference

By Hind-Lara Mango  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Professors, scholars, and translation experts participating in the First International Conference on Arabic-English Contrastive and Comparative Studies agree that translating from Arabic into English presents problems, particularly translation of Arabic Islamic documents.

During his presentation at the University of Jordan, Dr. Abdullah Shunnaq, from Yarmouk University, gave fourteen examples of Arabic Islamic court documents and compared them to their English translations.

Dr. Shunnaq argued that an Arab translator is very much on his or her own when translating this type of text due to the drastic cultural differences

between the Arabic source text and a possible English equivalent, and the absence of an English model to follow.

Dr. Basil Hatim, Director of the postgraduate programme on English-Arabic Translation at the University of Heriot-Watt in the U.K., agreed, stating that he believed cultural factors play a major role in translations from Arabic into English.

"Culture is the key word, and it has unfortunately been misunderstood as local colour," affirmed Dr. Hatim.

He further noted that a bilingual translator should be aware of the depth of the language and look beyond stereotypical images.

"We've got to go beyond the sentence, we've got to be aware of the discourse values, modes of argumentation, and how Arabic and

English differ in this [context]," Dr. Hatim asserted.

"Students and translators might be linguistically competent, but [this does not necessarily mean that] they are textually competent," he added.

Another point, raised by Dr. Nathalie Hani from Saint Joseph University in Lebanon, was the redundancy of Arabic, which cannot be translated into English.

Unlike Arabic, English is a direct language, she emphasised.

Loan translation, the literal translation of a text, was another problematic element commonly found in translations from Arabic into English.

"This habit of copying the exact words and sentence structure into English [results in] an Arabic language written in English words," Dr. Hani commented.

The five-day conference aims at exchanging views and ideas on the best way to foster academic links among departments of English and translation at Arab universities.

More than 150 people attended these deliberations, which began on Saturday. Around 110 papers were presented, in addition to panel and plenary discussions.

Dr. Lewis Mukantash, Head of the Department of English Language and Literature at the University of Jordan, told the Jordan Times that there are hopes for the creation of an Association for Professors of English Language and Literature at Arab Universities.

"If we are lucky, we can make the idea of an association a reality," he said.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILM

\* Children's film "Dirty Beasts and the Enormous Crocodile" at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 5:00 p.m.

### DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL

\* Paintings by Rafa Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Dalloul of Syria, and Najia Mehadiji at the South Hall.

\* Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qailoka at the Middle Hall.

\* Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.

\* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Blue House.

\* Paintings by children of Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Works by Basem Al Mahdi at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 8.

\* Arrizaman and Bani Hamida present a Bani Hamida exhibition (rugs, cushions, runners, wall hangings and baskets) at the Al-Badar Hall of Kan Zaman, until Sept. 20.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Postal fund approves JD7.5m loan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Postal Savings Fund's Board of Directors Tuesday approved a JD 7.5 million loan to Jordan Cement Factories Company. The Fund's board, meeting with Chairman Bassam Saket, agreed to forward the Fund's 1996 profits, amounting to JD 350,000, as a general reserve for 1997, and to continue to provide soft loans to civil servants. The Fund has so far granted soft loans worth JD 3 million to 7,500 civil servants.

### Royal Decrees issued on foreign service

AMMAN (Petra) — Two Royal Decrees were issued Tuesday granting Jordan's Independence Medal of the First Order to Korean ambassador to Jordan Jung Il Oh and Omani ambassador Mohammad Sultan Al Busaid on the occasion of their tours of duty in the Kingdom. A third Royal Decree was issued endorsing the transfer of Jordan's ambassadors to Ankara and Beirut, Saleh Kabari and Fakhri Abu Taleb, respectively, to the Foreign Ministry. A fourth Royal Decree was issued Tuesday confirming the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Moldova. Two other Royal Decrees endorsed the appointment of Orhan Madhat Ozbeck as Jordan's honorary consul in Istanbul, and Mong Cheng as Jordan's honorary consul in Seoul, South Korea.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday said "crimes of honour" top the list of murders that have been committed in Jordan, yet the police have not been empowered to deal with the consequences.

Deputising for Prince Hassan, Minister of Interior Nafith Rashid said despite the existence of the tribal constitution of honour and prevailing Jordanian laws, the Kingdom is still in need of specific legislation to address the damage done by these crimes.

The police have a duty to uphold the law and protect society by bringing violators to justice, the Crown Prince added.

Women and children who fall victim to abuse, rape, and violence at home require attention because they are the most at risk, he continued.

"These vulnerable groups require our attention and our sympathy, and the police are now creating a unit specialised in dealing with such crimes," said the Crown Prince.

"Society must provide protection to children who fall victim to abuse, but this cannot be achieved without effective and thorough investigation, and in the



Senior police and government officials, and social science experts Tuesday attend a Public Security Department seminar on domestic violence (PSD photo)

case of rape and other sexual assault, the victimised women should receive humanitarian treatment based on respect," he commented.

"Should the police fail in their duty, the family's reputation will suffer within the society to which the police are affiliated," warned the Crown Prince, adding "the police force cannot act on its own but it is rather in need of back-

ing, not only from community members, but also from the judicial and legislative authorities which should enact legislation imposing the heaviest penalty on the criminals."

Prince Hassan explained that this seminar is designed to focus attention on crimes committed within the family and to study the motives for such crimes and their consequences.

Thus, this calls for the police to assume roles other than the traditional ones to which they are accustomed, he concluded.

The symposium, organised by the Public Security Department (PSD), has the goals of analysing various dangers facing women and children and the motives of related crimes, while mobilising public opinion to prevent all threats against the family.

## Jordan, Sudan sign pact on police work

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Sudan Tuesday signed a protocol on cooperation between their respective public security departments.

Public Security Department Director Lieutenant General Nasouh Muhieddin, who signed the protocol along with Major General Dirar Abdullah Abbas, head of the visiting Sudanese Public Security Department for Training, said Jordan was ready to offer Sudan expertise and qualified staff for training.

## Man kills ex-fiancée, injures self

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A 33-year-old man Tuesday shot and killed his ex-fiancée in a forest and critically injured himself in Deir Alaa in the Jordan Valley, official sources said.

Mohammad D. shot Majdah D. 25, who was also his cousin, seven times, then shot himself three times, the source said.

According to the source, the couple was engaged two years ago, but broke up, and Majdah was later engaged to another man.

"Mohammad decided to return to Majdah but she

rejected his offer, so he threatened to kill her and her new fiancé," the source said.

He added that Mohammad went to the farm nursery where Majdah worked, drew a gun hidden under his shirt, shot her, then shot himself.

"Majdah died instantly, but Mohammad survived and was rushed to King Hussein Hospital in Salt," the source told the Jordan Times.

In other incidents in the Kingdom, a 17-year-old man was killed Tuesday after being buried by tonnes of rice in a factory in Aqaba, according to Civil

Defence Department (CDD) officials.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the victim, Adnan Ghasab, an employee at the factory, was walking on a conveyor belt transporting rice to a warehouse when he accidentally fell in the rice bin.

"Mr. Ghasab fell in the rice and the conveyor belt kept dropping rice, which we estimated weigh[ed] almost 1,500 tonnes," the CDD official said.

According to the CDD official, it took rescue workers approximately an hour to pull Mr. Ghasab's from under the rice.



## Islamabad dismisses Indian claim of killing 70 of its troops

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — A Defence Ministry spokesman here Tuesday dismissed as baseless claims by India that its forces killed 70 Pakistani troops in weekend exchanges along the border in Kashmir.

"We invite India to let the United Nations observers verify the facts on both sides of the Line of Control," the border between the Pakistani and Indian zones in the disputed Himalayan region, the spokesman said.

The Indian claim "is a figment of imagination," the spokesman said.

Five civilians were killed and another 14 were injured by the "unprovoked" Indian cross-border firing in Pandu, Chakothi, Sankh and Kerman sub-sectors, the spokesman said.

Pakistan has lodged a complaint with the United Nations Military Observers Group in India, and Pakistan about the Indian firing, the official said.

New Delhi controls the southern two thirds of Kashmir and the northern third is under the control of Islamabad.

An Indian army brigadier, Jasbir Laddar, claimed Monday that 70 Pakistani soldiers were killed in clashes with Indian troops.

Brig. Laddar said the Indians had responded after an army major was killed by Pakistani fire Saturday.

The Pakistani spokesman reiterated that the Indians were making propaganda to cover up their "repression" in Kashmir and to raise temperatures ahead of next month's bilateral talks in New Delhi.

The foreign secretaries of the two countries are due to meet in New Delhi for a third session since March on improving mutual ties marked by 50 years of hostility, including two wars over disputed Kashmir.

Local newspaper Dawn reported from Washington the United States has asked India and Pakistan to stop the clashes and press ahead with the dialogue to resolve the outstanding problems between them.

A State Department spokesman told its correspondent the United States had no independent account of the casualties on both sides.

"We are unable to determine what has happened as numerous incidents happen on that border, but the volatility of the situation emphasises the pressing need for the two countries to continue their talks," the paper quoted the spokesman as saying.

Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged small arms fire across their Kashmir border Tuesday but their artillery was silent for the first time in six days, Indian officials said.

"The intensity of firing has reduced both in Uri and Kerman sectors," a Defence Ministry spokesman in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, Srinagar, told Reuters.

"However, intermittent exchange of firing has been of machine guns and small arms. The situation seems to be under control," the spokesman said.

He was referring to two areas on the military line of control dividing the Himalayan region where gunners on both sides traded artillery fire during five days to Monday.

U.S. officials in Washington said Monday that the United States would be willing to mediate to end the Kashmir border clashes if invited by the two countries to do so.

"We call on both sides to work it out. We'd be willing to help if we were asked to do so," a senior State Department official said. He said this was a long-standing offer over the

two countries' Kashmir dispute.

India has repeatedly rejected the U.S. offer, saying any differences with Pakistan must be worked out in bilateral talks.

New Delhi regards the whole of Kashmir as an integral part of India. Islamabad wants the predominantly Muslim Kashmir to decide in a U.N.-mandated plebiscite whether to join Islamic Pakistan or Hindu-majority India. Some of the Kashmiri groups fighting Indian rule seek an independent state.

Indian newspapers Tuesday named Pakistan for cross-border firing in Kashmir and cautioned New Delhi's leaders against allowing Washington to capitalise on the hostilities to become a mediator between the rivals.

The overwhelming consensus in the English-language dailies was that Pakistan provoked the firing that led to five consecutive days of artillery exchanges.

The newspapers speculated that Pakistan's military establishment wanted to upset efforts on both sides of the border to normalise relations at high-level bilateral talks set to resume next month in New Delhi.

"Hotheads within the Pakistan establishment...do not obviously want prime ministers Inder Gujral and Nawaz Sharif to author a new chapter of hope and goodwill in the sub-continent," the Asian Age said in an editorial.

"This, obviously, is the result of well-designed moves by those elements in Pakistan which are out to scuttle the process of dialogue and to give a new urgency to the 'dispute' so as to attract the attention of the international community," the Hindu said in a front-page article.

The Times of India said there had been a sustained campaign in Pakistan against the bilateral peace talks.

"Unlike in India, where the armed forces are strictly bound by the orders of the civilian government, in Pakistan the army is the supreme decision-making authority for defence and foreign policy," it said.

The Times of India said Pakistan may have been trying to provide cover for guerrillas infiltrating into Kashmir. Islamabad says it provides only moral and diplomatic support to militants waging a separatist war in India's Jammu and Kashmir state.

Several newspapers said Pakistan wanted to stoke tensions along the border to draw international attention to the region and raise the chances that the United States might eventually become a third-party mediator.

"Pakistan would like to draft the United States, with its well-known bias on the Kashmir issue, for a mediatory role in the (Kashmir) valley," the Times of India said. "One way of doing it would be to let loose violence in the valley."

"Having 'facilitated' the process of reconciliation between several antagonistic parties in the Middle East, Balkans and Africa, the United States has been targeting South Asia as the next trouble-spot needing its healing touch," the Observer said.

The Hindustan Times said: "Any deterioration in the situation will enable the United States to redouble its efforts to cap and roll back the policies of nuclearisation in South Asia."

"If Washington, the self-appointed mediator, has a role, it is in stopping assistance to the several proxies which have wrecked Pakistan over the past few decades," the Hindu said.

Several newspapers urged India to press Pakistan to accept confidence-building measures to prevent a resurgence of violence along the border.

## Anti-Taleban forces begin search for new premier

KABUL (AFP) — Negotiations aimed at finding a new premier for Afghanistan's anti-Taleban alliance have begun, four days after the last prime minister was killed in a plane crash, a spokesman told AFP Tuesday.

The official said the north-east-based grouping have delayed plans to capture Taleban-held Kabul since Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzai — shadow prime minister for only seven days — died last Thursday in central Afghanistan.

"The alliance began discussing a possible replacement for Ghafoorzai last night (Monday), and very soon someone will be appointed," spokesman Abdullah said in a satellite telephone interview.

"After the tragic loss the military programme was halted, but it will continue as soon as a new prime minister is found," he said.

Frontlines between the Taleban and their northern opponents remain within 25 kilometres of Kabul, but without any major action or change since Ghafoorzai's death.

Mr. Abdullah said the rep-

lacement should ideally have similar characteristics to the late Ghafoorzai, who with United Nations and government experience was hailed by the alliance as a neutral 'technocrat'.

"A few names have been mentioned, but all I can tell you is that the figure will not be from within the parties," said Mr. Abdullah, who serves as a close aide to ex-government defence chief Ahmad Shah Masood.

But the spokesman admitted that an Afghan with international experience and respected as a non-military figure "will not be an easy person to find."

With Mr. Masood the anti-Taleban alliance includes the Shiite Muslim faction Hezb-e-Wahdat led by Karim Khalili and the ethnic-Uzbek Jumbesh Party headed by warlord Abdul Malik.

Hezb-e-Wahdat, in whose Bamiyan stronghold Ghafoorzai's plane perished, also lost three high-ranking ideologues and military brains in the crash.

The alliance has been battling the hardline Muslim and mainly ethnic-Pashtun Taleban for control of Kabul since the militia seized

the city from Mr. Masood in September last year.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's Taleban rulers arrested more than 100 people, most of them ethnic minorities, in a midnight raid on a Kabul neighbourhood Tuesday, police and residents said.

Residents said about 50 police officers backed by tanks and armoured personnel carriers arrived in the hillside community around midnight.

One woman, too frightened to give her name, said armed police officers banged on her door, entered and took away her male relatives.

The police told residents they were arresting men suspected of gambling and smoking hashish, which are both banned under Taleban law.

But officials at a nearby jail, where most of the men were being held for questioning later Tuesday, refused to say why the roundup took place.

Taleban leaders in the past have accused minority groups of supporting the anti-Taleban coalition.

In a civil war that is increasingly taking on ethnic overtones, Taleban authori-

ties have ordered a series of sweeps through minority neighbourhoods in Kabul, arresting hundreds of people.

Most detainees were released within 24 hours, but foreign aid agencies say more than 100 minority residents of the beleaguered Afghan capital are still being held at Kabul's notorious third directorate prison.

The underground compound in the Security Ministry is flooded with sewage and infested by rats and insects, aid workers and former inmates have said.

Other detainees have been moved to jails in the Taleban's southern seat of government in Kandahar, 300 kilometres southwest of Kabul, according to aid agencies.

Meanwhile, the opposition coalition led by Mr. Masood continues to pressure the Taleban army.

An offensive last month brought Mr. Masood's forces to within rocket range of Kabul. Taleban authorities have tightened security around the city, increasing the number of checkpoints for travellers coming and going from Kabul.

## OAU's Salim backs Nyerere on Burundi talks

ARUSHA, Tanzania (R) — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) endorsed Julius Nyerere's mediation on Burundi Tuesday despite the near-collapse of peace talks after key players stayed away.

An aide to the former Tanzanian president said Mr. Nyerere would speak Tuesday with the few delegates who did show up in the north Tanzanian town of Arusha for the talks.

The talks, due to have begun Monday, are in disarray after Burundi's military government decided not to participate and leaders of other major parties failed to arrive from the Burundi capital.

"There is disappointment and also a sense of frustration that after all the preparations the talks could not substantively take place," OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmad Salim told Reuters by telephone from Arusha.

"The OAU stands behind Nyerere but the point is that it will be up to Mwalimu Nyerere himself to determine what he should be doing," Mr. Salim said.

The talks are part of efforts to resolve Burundi's ethnic conflict in which more than 150,000 people have been killed in massacres and civil war since Tutsi soldiers murdered Burundi's first Hutu president in an attempted coup in 1993.

One South African mediator said Monday the failure of the talks would spell the end of Mr. Nyerere's initiative.

Burundi's main Hutu rebel group, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy, and at least two hardline pro-Tutsi parties have sent delegates to Arusha. The external wing of the mainly Hutu FRODEBU party is also represented.

Mr. Nyerere Monday said

Burundi denied clearance for a plane scheduled to collect political leaders and bring them to Arusha. Burundi's government denied the charge and said no clearance was requested.

Mr. Salim said poor bilateral relations between Burundi and Tanzania were to blame for the problems with the talks and defended Mr. Nyerere's role and Arusha as the venue.

"The bottom line is whether the parties to the conflict want to pursue the path of negotiations. If the obstruction was Mwalimu or Tanzania (or) if there was a better alternative we would look into those alternatives," he said.

Mr. Nyerere said Monday the boycott decision by the Burundi government was a major blow. For the next step he would consult Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa. In an attempt to salvage the

talks Mr. Nyerere Monday met international envoys including Mr. Salim, Mohammad Sahnoun, the joint U.N. and OAU special envoy to the great lakes region of central Africa, and European Union (EU) envoy to the Great Lakes Aldo Ajello.

Burundi's government accuses Tanzania of harbouring Hutu rebels and blames it for a decision by regional states this month to maintain sanctions.

Sanctions were first imposed in July 1996 after a coup brought military leader Pierre Buyoya to power. They were relaxed last April.

South African mediator Jan Van Eck was blunt about the talks' chances. "Arusha without the main protagonists is a non-event. I don't see any benefit in going ahead except allowing people to posture... this is a polite way to end the Nyerere initiative," he told Reuters Monday.



Mother Teresa (right) receives a garland on the occasion of her 87th birthday by a sister of the Missionary of Charity in Calcutta Tuesday. Mother Teresa celebrated her birthday with a special mass (Reuters photo)

## Mother Teresa turns 87

CALCUTTA (R) — Mother Teresa Tuesday celebrated her 87th birthday quietly at home, the headquarters of her Roman Catholic order, the Missionaries of Charity.

A group of mainly foreign volunteers assembled in the courtyard of mother house and sang "happy birthday" as the frail missionary appeared on a first-floor balcony.

"The 'saint of the gutters' waved to the volunteers. 'God bless you. Pray and work for the poorest of the poor,' she told them."

"The family is a precious and beautiful gift of God and let us make sure that we never destroy this beautiful gift but keep the family united through prayer, love and sacrifice," she said.

She urged the volunteers not to lose the spirit of prayer to ensure love, joy, peace and unity.

"Prayer gives a clean heart and a clean heart can see God in each person around us. And if we can see God in our neighbour, we love him and want to serve him in our family, our neighbour, in that dying man, that poor widow, that hungry child," she said.

Mother Teresa also participated in a special mass.

"Today's mass was different. It was obviously more joyful for it is our mother's birthday," said a spokeswoman of the religious order.

"But we celebrate her birthday a day later on Aug. 27, for mother was baptised on that day," she said.

A number of schoolchildren from the many slums in this eastern Indian city visited Mother Teresa in groups and presented her with flowers.

"Mother is all right. She is doing her normal work. But

you know she is not that strong to move around as she used to do earlier," the spokeswoman told Reuters.

The Roman Catholic missionary, famed for her work with the poor, destitute and dying, retired as the superior general of her religious order earlier this year after a spell of poor health.

Last year she celebrated her birthday from a hospital bed and was unable to speak because of respiratory tubes fitted to help her overcome her breathing problems.

She was initially admitted to hospital with a bout of malaria but later developed heart, kidney and lung trouble.

But she staged a miraculous recovery and went on a tour of Europe and the United States with her successor, Sister Nirmala, in May this year.

China typhoon causes \$2.675b damage

BEIJING (R) — A typhoon that battered eastern China last week caused 22.2 billion yuan (\$2.675 billion) in damages, making it the nation's most costly disaster in a decade, the China Daily said Tuesday.

Typhoon Winnie killed more than 140 people and injured 3,000, destroyed tens of thousands of homes,

flooded fields and damaged dams and sea dikes, officials said last week.

"This is the largest disaster damage bill in a decade," the China Daily quoted an official of the Ministry of Civil Affairs as saying.

"(The government) is considering giving relief funds to the hardest hit areas this week," the official said.

In eastern Zhejiang province, which bore the brunt of the storm, 44,000 people were left homeless, the China Daily said.

Losses in Zhejiang totalled 18.6 billion yuan, or more than 80 per cent of the national damage bill, with 731,000 hectares of crops flooded and 177,000 houses destroyed, it said.

Institute for the semi-arid tropics told Reuters.

"On the one hand the crop in certain areas has been damaged by water-logging and flooding, and on the other hand in some areas, the newly sown crop has withered away because of deficient rainfall," Mr. Virmani added.

He said the rice crop in the coastal state of Orissa, the central state of Madhya Pradesh and in the northwestern state of Rajasthan had been affected by flooding.

"But heavy rain has been a blessing for the groundnut crop in Gujarat," Navinbhai Shah, president of the Bombay Oilseeds and Oil Exchange Ltd. told Reuters.

"The oilseeds growing areas have got badly needed rains in the last few days."

Trade officials and experts said some rice and oilseeds growing areas in southern Andhra Pradesh state were still reeling under drought conditions and crops had had to resown after initially deficient rainfall.

"This year, the monsoon has given a mixed picture," S.M. Virmani, an agriculture expert at the Hyderabad-based International Crops Research

institute for the semi-arid tropics told Reuters.

Mr. Pasrija said state authorities were working on the value and quantity of damage to the crops. "They are working on the exact nature of damage, but the crop which has been most badly affected is that of rice,"

Agriculture Minister Chaturanan Mishra said Sunday that the country's food-grains output in the 1997/98 (July-June) season was expected to cross 200 million tonnes, up from a record 198.17 million in the previous year.

In the entire 1996 monsoon season from June to September, 2,065 people died and crops covering 2.8 million hectares were damaged by monsoon rains.

Industry officials and agriculture experts said that this year's rain distribution had not been even.

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## Paedophilia is serious problem in Australia — report

SYDNEY (R) — Paedophilia is a serious problem in Australia's most populous state of New South Wales (NSW), where every organisation entrusted to protect children, such as police, courts and government, has failed to provide adequate care, an official report said.

The report, released Tuesday, called for a new children's commission to coordinate the protection of children and help prosecute paedophiles.

"The magnitude of the problem is not one that can be accurately described by figures and statistics," said Supreme Court Judge James Wood who headed a royal commission into police corruption and paedophilia.

"Without wishing to engender paranoia, the commission has concluded that the incidence of paedophile activity is of considerable proportions such as to amount to a very significant problem," said Judge Wood in his 1,000 page report.

The report listed numerous cases of paedophilia but did not name the paedophiles involved.

The report recommended the creation of new sexual abuse crimes, such as persistent sexual abuse of a child, loitering for sexual gratification, and group sexual activity where paedophiles encourage children to have sex with each other.

It called for tough penalties ranging from five years jail for indecent touching without consent, 10 years for sexual abuse during torture, to 25 years for persistent sexual abuse.

It recommended a police registration of all convicted child sexual offenders in NSW, but added this would only be fully effective if there was a national registry.

The report also suggested sweeping gay law reforms, such as lowering the age of consent for homosexual intercourse between males in NSW from 18 to 16, bringing it in line with that for females. The age of consent varies in Australia's six states and two mainland territories.

"The preservation of the existing laws risks stigmatising sexually active adolescent male homosexuals, making it more difficult for them to come to terms with their sexuality..." Mr. Wood said.

The report said there was a "disturbing picture" of paedophilia in NSW, where paedophile groups cooperated with each other, while police showed a lack of commitment to tackle the problem and churches where there was a substantial incidence of sexual abuse, protected paedophile clergy.

"Generally speaking, the approach of the churches has been to reject complaints of sexual abuse by clergy," Judge Wood said.

"Sexual abuse has often been regarded by churches as a problem of 'moral failure,' rather than a criminal offence, calling for help rather than punishment," he said.

"Spiritualising the problem is dangerous because it involves the assumption that once confessed... the problem has been resolved. This response is inappropriate because many such offenders have simply continued to abuse over the years."

Judge Wood said many clergy believed that the vow of celibacy was confined to heterosexual relations and did not extend to indecent acts with boys or adolescent males.

"Sexual abuse of children is now regarded as a major problem for churches around the world."

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A wounded Cambodian government soldier waits to be evacuated from the frontlines in the besieged town of O'Smach. Government forces loyal to powerful Second Prime Minister Hun Sen have been battling the guerrillas loyal to ousted First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh for the past two weeks (Reuters photo)

## Northwest Cambodia fighting flares after lull

CHONG CHOM (AFP) — Besieged troops loyal to Cambodia's ousted premier shattered an uneasy calm around their last bastion Tuesday by unleashing a fresh attack on their powerful rivals, Thai officials said.

The firefight, led by heavy cannons, mortars and machine-guns, came a day after the royalist troops clawed back crucial territory from the soldiers of strongman Hun Sen, averting what seemed to be an imminent defeat.

"The royalists began firing heavily on Hun Sen's positions, but it is not yet clear whether it was to prevent an imminent attack or to win back more territory," said a senior Thai military officer near the border.

National television reported that the royalist troops started a firefight with Mr. Hun Sen's forces in the early afternoon, firing into government lines during heavy rain.

A cameraman working for the British news agency Reuters was wounded in the flare-up in the northwest Cambodian bastion of O'Smach, to which the royalist forces are desperately clinging, Thai military sources said.

The injured television cameraman, Warasit Sattienit, was grazed in the leg by a bullet as he filmed two seriously injured royalist soldiers being carried across the border into this Thai frontier town, the sources said.

The clash came after a lull in the fighting which had begun late Monday after the royalists had won back some territory from their advancing opponents.

Thai military officers here had predicted that the calm would not hold. "We think that the two sides are preparing for battle again and anticipate that fighting will start this evening," a military source said. The beleaguered royalists, whose leader First Prime Minister Prince Ranariddh was ousted by Second Premier Hun Sen in a bloody weekend of street fighting in Phnom Penh early last month, appear to be intent on holding onto their last outpost against the odds.

"We can hold O'Smach and will stay there, but I do not know for how long," a source close to the prince told AFP, adding that the royalists had Sunday inflicted "heavy human casualties" on the much stronger forces of Hun Sen.

Prince Ranariddh's troops almost lost O'Smach Sunday when Mr. Hun Sen's men pressed them against the fence which separates this Thai border town from O'Smach.

Military analysts say that although O'Smach, a dusty border trade town set on a jungle-clad hill in this remote area, was difficult to overrun from lower ground, the royalists were trapped in a pocket and could not hold out against Mr. Hun Sen's superior fire power indefinitely.

But the loss of O'Smach, to which the prince's troops retreated after losing Phnom Penh and the north of Cambodia to Hun Sen's men, would deal a severe blow to the morale of the "resistance forces" and hand Mr. Hun Sen a major victory. Opposition leaders Monday conceded that O'Smach could fall "at any time," but warned the resistance to Mr. Hun

Sen's "brutal" rule would continue throughout Cambodia. Sam Rainsy, a leader of the Union of Cambodian Democrats, which includes Prince Ranariddh's royalist forces, vowed resistance to Phnom Penh would continue even after the capture of the town.

"O'Smach may fall at any time because even steel can be pierced," he said in a statement issued in the eastern Thai town of Surin.

"But there are likely to be many other O'Smachs all over Cambodia which will show the determination of the Cambodian people to resist tyranny," he said.

The notorious Khmer Rouge guerrilla movement, which has formed a military alliance with the royalist fighters, said Tuesday that 40 of Mr. Hun Sen's men were killed and "hundreds" injured in Sunday's battle, "devastating" the government forces.

The movement's clandestine radio, monitored in Bangkok, praised and congratulated Prince Ranariddh's top commander Nhiek Bun Chhay for resisting Mr. Hun Sen's forces from O'Smach.

"The heroic fight of all the fighters of the national resistance forces to counter the forces of the puppet Hun Sen... has caused Hun Sen to become locked in a deepening impasse and has also posed military, political, economic and diplomatic obstacles for him," it said.

Meanwhile a senior official said Tuesday Cambodian government would be prepared to accept a ceasefire if royalist forces agreed to first lay down their arms.

"It is crazy and nonsense to continue to fight each other so we have no problem with a ceasefire," said Secretary of State for Information Khieu Kanharith, a spokesman for Mr. Hun Sen.

"But they will have to stop fighting and we cannot accept two governments and two territories. They must give up their arms. If (they) persist, the fighting will continue."

In a separate development Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk's office said Tuesday that he plans to return home Friday for the first time since Mr. Hun Sen seized control.

King Sihanouk would fly back by special plane on the morning of Aug. 29, said a spokesman for his cabinet in Beijing.

The king, who has been in Beijing since February for medical treatment, had said repeatedly he would return to Cambodia this month and planned to stay in the northwest town of Siem Reap, home of the Angkor temple complex.

He has said he wants to take part in several Buddhist prayer ceremonies far from the politicians in Phnom Penh.

The king, who reigns but does not rule in Cambodia, threatened this month to abdicate, but later said he had decided not to renounce the throne and would stay out of politics in his troubled South East Asian homeland.

## Florida declares victory in tobacco war

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (R) — Florida declared victory Monday in its battle against the U.S. Tobacco Industry, announcing an \$11.3 billion settlement in its lawsuit to recover medical costs and punish cigarette makers for years of "dark and dirty secrets and lies."

"The tobacco industry has conceded defeat and we have a settlement of historic proportions," Gov. Lawton Chiles told a news conference after signing the settlement with industry lawyers in a West Palm Beach, Florida, courtroom.

"Florida's victory today truly is a win for all of our people. Most of all it's a victory for our children and their future. The victory is the straw that broke Joe Camel's back," he said.

Mr. Chiles said under the 25-year accord the tobacco industry would pay Florida "at least \$11.3 billion, and the first payment, \$1 billion, is due within the next 12 months." State officials also said the industry agreed to pay millions to cover Florida's legal costs.

Mr. Chiles said the deal would immediately end tobacco advertising within 1,000 feet of Florida schools. It does not need to be approved by the state's legislature.

All cigarette advertising billboards in the state would have to be taken down within six months. The accord

also bans cigarette advertising in sports arenas, kiosks and mass transit stations, including trains.

"During the last year we forced the industry to reveal its dark and dirty secrets and lies... they have admitted for the first time that smoking might have killed hundreds of thousands of our people... that the industry purposely misled the public to make a profit," Mr. Chiles said.

Many of the industry's previously unpublished internal documents would be released as part of the deal, he said.

"The tobacco industry said, however, that a national accord was still needed, and that the so-called 'global' industry settlement between the industry and state attorneys general reached on June 20 would largely supersede the Florida pact."

"While this case dealt with specific concerns of the state of Florida, the comprehensive settlement represents the best opportunity to achieve immediate and meaningful resolution of outstanding issues regarding tobacco, including a reduction in the use of tobacco products by minors and the preservation of adults' rights to use tobacco," five major tobacco companies said in the statement.

The companies issuing the statement were Philip Morris Cos. Inc. Reynolds Tobacco

Co., a unit of RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp. Brown Williamson Tobacco Corp., a unit of B.A.T. Industries PLC, Lorillard Tobacco Co., a unit of Loews Corp. and U.S. Tobacco Co., a unit of UST Inc.

Florida Attorney General Bob Butterworth told Reuters a comprehensive national tobacco pact, if approved by Congress, would supersede the state's settlement "to some extent."

But he said Florida would retain the upfront money to be paid by tobacco companies and measures such as the industry's agreement to remove advertising billboards from the state.

Florida was seeking \$12.3 billion to recover the cost of treating Medicaid recipients with smoking-related illnesses and punitive damages for tobacco's alleged wrongful conduct in promoting a product it allegedly knew to be dangerous.

The state filed the suit in February 1995 under the Medicaid third party liability act of 1994 which stripped tobacco firms of the traditional defense that smokers shared the blame for cigarette-related health problems.

Steven Goldstone, chairman of RJR Nabisco Holdings, said in a deposition Friday that he believed smoking contributes to lung cancer, according to a transcript.

A day earlier, Geoffrey Bible, chairman of Philip Morris, the nation's largest tobacco company, said in a deposition that 100,000 people a year may have died from smoking.

The settlement was the second between a state and the tobacco industry.

Mississippi announced in July a \$3.36 billion settlement of the state's Medicaid lawsuit against big tobacco, averting the first trial of 40 such cases across the country.

Texas said Monday that it was proceeding with its suit despite the Florida settlement.

Tobacco companies agreed in June to pay \$368.5 billion, admit that tobacco is addictive and accept extensive federal regulation over their products and their advertising as part of a landmark agreement with state attorneys general.

In return, the companies would be given immunity from any further punitive liability for deception, fraud or conspiracy that might have occurred in the past.

That deal remains subject to approval by Congress, however. The Senate Agriculture Committee holds the first of a number of hearings on Sept. 11, looking at in-pact of the settlement on farmers.

## North Korean ambassador to Cairo seeks asylum in U.S.

SEOUL (R) — North Korea's envoy to Egypt has arrived in the United States seeking political asylum, sparking speculation he will spill secrets of Pyongyang's Middle East arms sales, sources said Tuesday.

North Korea watchers said Washington appeared to have landed an important catch.

They said Jang Seung-II, who went missing last Friday, could reveal secrets ahead of U.S.-North Korean missile talks due to resume Wednesday in New York.

Egypt was Pyongyang's diplomatic headquarters in the region, they said. Mr. Jang was vice foreign minister in charge of the region before being assigned to Cairo.

"Ambassador Jang Seung-II is now in the U.S.," a Seoul government source told Reuters Tuesday. "He got where he wanted to go."

"The government is closely following the matter as this case involves North Korea and our most important ally," he added.

Mr. Jang is the first North

Korean ambassador and the most senior diplomat to defect from his famine-stricken country, according to Seoul officials. He was due to return home next month at the end of a three-year assignment.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lee Kyu-Hyung confirmed that Mr. Jang, accompanied by his wife, was in a third country after leaving Egypt but declined to give further details.

The U.S. refused comment on Mr. Jang. "I'm disinclined to get into it," State Department spokesman James Rubin told a regular briefing Monday.

A senior State Department official said: "Generally, these are intelligence matters, and we're not interested in getting into them, at least not in the early stages, if there were such a thing going on."

Analysts monitoring developments in North Korea said Mr. Jang could shed light on suspicions that it sells missiles and other weapons to Syria, Iran and Libya.

"Mr. Jang should have access to first-class information on missiles," said Kim Koo-Seup, chief North Korea researcher at Seoul's state-funded Korea Institute for Defence Analysis.

"I'm sure he will provide insights into Pyongyang's development, production and exports of missiles," he said.

Mr. Kim said North Korea had deployed and exported the 300-kilometre-range Scud-B missile and 500-600 kilometre-range Scud-C missile to Middle East nations.

"Now it has emerged as a missile power, and it not only sells parts of Scud-C missiles to countries like Syria and Libya but also offers missile assembly plants," he said.

The Scud-C is upgraded version of the Soviet Scud-B.

Some analysts worry that unless North Korea's transfers are restrained, Pyongyang may begin selling longer-range missiles and associated production capabilities.

In May 1993, Pyongyang tested its 1,000-kilometre-range Nodong 1 missile and is developing the Taepodong 1 and II missiles with potential ranges of up to 3,500 kilometres.

Park Sung-Hoon, senior North Korea analyst at the National Unification Ministry, said Mr. Jang's defection would not have any major impact on four-party peace talks being arranged by the two Koreas, the United States and China.

"The North is desperate to rescue the nation from an economic disaster and famine. It can't afford to break out of dialogue," he said.

The four nations are due to meet on Sept. 15 in New York to set an agenda for formal talks to forge a permanent peace on the Korean peninsula.

The highest ranking North Korean to flee his homeland was Hwang Jang-Yop, architect of the country's guiding ideology of self-reliance, or "Juche," who sought asylum at South Korea's Beijing mission in February.

## Crew fixes Mir's oxygen system, faces new problem

MOSCOW (R) — The crew aboard the ailing space station Mir have repaired their oxygen generating systems after a few hours without fresh oxygen but face a new problem with solar panels they repaired last week, officials said Tuesday.

The U.S. space agency NASA said late Monday that Mir's two working oxygen systems — the Elektron generator and a back-up system of oxygen "candles" — had failed, leaving the crew with just a few days of oxygen before they would have had to abandon ship.

"The situation is as follows: The Elektron is working, the system which uses candles is working, and one Elektron which is in Kvant-2 is not working because there was no electricity there," deputy flight director, Viktor Blagov told Reuters.

The older back-up Elektron oxygen system in the Kvant-2 module has been off since June 25 when Mir collided with a supply ship, causing a major loss of power.

The crew may also be able to turn on that system soon following the repairs they carried out Friday which were supposed to boost the station's energy supply, Mr. Blagov said.

"Yesterday we turned on Kvant-2, and now we will work on the Elektron-2," he said.

Another problem loomed, however. NASA reported that the crew were unable to point solar panels on the Spektr module towards the sun.

"Commands sent to the solar arrays, to try to slew or move them into a better orientation to face the sun, were not successful," NASA said.

On Friday the crew reconnected cables inside Spektr connecting its solar panels with the mother ship. But if the solar panels do not face the sun they generate less power than Mir needs.

Mir has run on 60 per cent of its usual power since the accident. Officials say if Spektr's solar panels can be made to work properly they will boost this to 90 per cent.

"We can generate some power from the solar arrays even if they are not pointed in the best possible direction," said Sergei Pozdnyakov, a member of the NASA team at mission control.

"At this point we cannot say that it is not functional because it will be some time before they figure out what was wrong with the solar array control system," he said.

## Sri Lankan navy sinks two rebel boats

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan navy sank two Tamil Tiger rebel boats and captured three guerrillas in a battle off the northeastern coast of the Indian Ocean island, military officials said Tuesday.

The rebel boats, which were carrying out a surveillance on a navy boat convoy off Chulani in the northeastern Mullaitivu district, were intercepted Monday by naval gunboats, officials said.

Three rebels who survived the attack were picked up by the navy after the battle, about 290 kilometres north

east of the capital Colombo. It was not immediately known if there were any rebel casualties, officials said.

Tamil Tiger rebels were not immediately available for comment.

Meanwhile Sri Lanka has promoted more than 120 senior army officers to head military units created to fight Tamil Tiger rebels, military officials said Tuesday.

They said 23 brigadiers, 35 colonels and 70 lieutenant colonels were promoted Monday — the first time so many officers have been elevated together.

"It is unusual that such a large number was promoted together. But some of these officers were already commanding units that should have been held by officers with a more senior rank," said a senior military official who asked not to be identified.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are fighting for a separate homeland for the minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east. The government says more than 50,000 people have been killed since the war began in 1983.

## U.S. researchers find colon cancer gene

WASHINGTON (R) — A seemingly harmless genetic mutation may actually cause one type of inherited colorectal cancer, researchers reported Monday.

The researchers at Johns Hopkins University who identified the mutation said it was now the most common cancer-related mutation known.

"This particular change looks to be harmless, but it turns out it's not harmless," said Kenneth Kinzler, an assistant professor of oncology at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University who worked on the study. "It creates an Achilles heel in the gene," he said.

Familial Colorectal Cancer (FCC) accounts for between 15 per cent and 50 per cent of all cases of colon cancer, one of the biggest killers in the Western world. FCC patients are nearly always Ashkenazi Jews — Jews of European descent — and usually are diagnosed when they are in their 50s or 60s.

The mutation, described in the journal *Nature Genetics*, involves the APC gene, which has long been known to be involved in colon can-

cer. "There are some people who inherit a completely defective, broken APC gene, and these patients develop hundreds of colon tumours," Dr. Kinzler said.

"What we've found is a subtle alteration in the genetic code that causes DNA instability and leads to hyper mutability, or a cascade of mutations in surrounding (genes)," Dr. Kinzler said.

"These subsequent mutations are what actually cause the cancer," he added.

The researchers figure that more than 680,000 people around the world carry the mutation. They have a 20 per cent to 30 per cent chance of getting colorectal cancer.

"It's like if somebody took a bridge and cut through one, support halfway through. It would look fine from the outside, and it wouldn't crash right away, but eventually it would collapse," Mr. Kinzler said.

He said this could mean that other seemingly harmless mutations caused cancer too.

"There's lots of differences in cancer-causing

genes that have been described," he said. "We may have to go back and look at them and make sure they are not a wolf in sheep's clothing."

The researchers first found the mutation in one patient and went back to study 766 other Ashkenazi Jews. They found the mutation in six per cent of those studied.

They then picked out 21 Ashkenazi Jews who had colon cancer and found the genetic mutation in one in six of those who developed it before the age of 66.

They found the same mutation in one-third of those with a family history of colorectal cancer.

"Though they are at increased risk for the disease, it can be detected at an early and curable stage through regular diagnostic screening tests such as sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy," said Frank Giar-Diello, director of the Hopkins Hereditary colorectal Cancer Clinic and Registry.

A blood test for the gene, available only at Johns Hopkins, costs \$200.

## Montserrat evacuation creeps ahead

OLVESTON (R) — The evacuation of Montserrat resumed at a slow trickle Monday as government officials urged Britain to do more for those who want to stay on the volcano-ravaged island.

A group of families boarded a ferry boat for neighbouring Antigua as the British-led evacuation entered its second day Monday. Eleven refugees had left the island Saturday.

Antigua, where hundreds of Montserratians have taken refuge from the volcano, warned Britain that it could not accept more refugees except on a "very short-term basis."

Of the 5,000 people remaining on Montserrat, only about 800 have signed up for the evacuation programme and most were in no hurry to leave, government spokesman Herman Sargeant told Reuters. "I think it will be a trickle. I don't think we expect any mass exodus of people at all," he said.

He said many were postponing a decision until it was clear whether Britain would make good on its promise to develop the northern third of the island, the safe zone where most residents have fled.

"What we're asking for is not just help for people to leave the island but for the British government to continue the development of

the north because clearly there are people who would like to stay," Mr. Sargeant said. Britain has pledged \$65 million of aid and has begun making infrastructure improvements in the north part of the island, including construction of 250 homes.

Barring a cataclysmic eruption — now seen as highly unlikely — the island's northern patch should continue to be safe for habitation and has been declared a safe zone by the government of the tiny British colony.

The Soufriere Hills Volcano has been spitting up gusts of ash and rock about every 12 hours. The pattern continued when a portion of the dome collapsed, sending ash and rubble into the outskirts of the abandoned capital of Plymouth early Monday.

But the current flows "are nowhere near as far as they've reached previously," Dr. Paul Jackson, deputy chief scientist at the Montserrat Volcano Observatory, said.

Dr. Jackson said the dome was growing larger and becoming less stable, making it likely the same pattern would continue for the next few weeks.

Fiery eruptions in June destroyed seven villages and killed 19 people, and hot rock flows in early August destroyed much of Plymouth.



## Jordan Times

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## Japan on peace map

JAPANESE DISCUSSIONS with both Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on setting up a vehicle assembly plant in an industrial area adjacent to Gaza is the kind of effort that is most needed at this critical stage in the Middle East peace process. If the plant materialises as hoped, the projected plant would provide employment for no less than 500 Palestinians in the initial phase. This would be a most welcome news not only to the beleaguered Palestinians but also for the peace effort, or whatever is left of it, as a whole.

The projected car factory at the Gaza industrial site has been already approved by both the Israelis and Palestinians. Tokyo is on the verge of approving it but has not yet formally given the go-ahead pending the attainment of some meaningful progress in the so-far stalled Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. When the plant is officially endorsed by Japan, however, it would be part of a larger complex which would create job opportunities for tens of thousands of Palestinians. What better way to convince those people that peace offers real opportunities to improve their quality of life?

Japan's investment in peace has been marked in more ways than one. Other nations are invited to follow in the footsteps of Tokyo by making other investments which stand to bolster faith and trust in regional peace, stability and prosperity. Even though the overall climate in the Middle East has been poisoned of late due to Israeli obstinacy, investment in economic projects, even at this juncture, may prove to be just the step needed to prod the Israeli government into thinking and acting more wisely.

In this context, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto did well to raise with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is currently visiting Tokyo, Japan's displeasure with his policies and the need for his government to take positive initiatives towards the Arab side.

Lifting the siege which Israel has imposed and maintained against the Palestinians for over three weeks now is a move that will not only help the cause of peace and stability in the Middle East, it will also encourage Japan to make more direct and bigger investments in the region, especially in countries which have signed or are likely to sign peace treaties.

Such an investment as the Israeli prime minister reportedly asked Hashimoto to make here, namely in water purification and desalination, can be more easily made when Israel proves to the world, in both word and deed, that it wants and is willing to work for real and just peace.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Dustour lauded the Palestine National Authority and the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for not responding to Israel's demands of cracking down on the Islamist groups like Islamic Jihad and Hamas. Had Mr. Arafat responded to Mr. Netanyahu's demands, he would have faced a civil war in the Palestine self-rule areas, said Jihad Momani. Having seen Israeli leaders' repression against Palestinians escalating and having failed to persuade the present Israeli government to implement the Oslo accord, Mr. Arafat resorted to putting his house in order and to join forces with the Islamist groups who the Israelis consider to be their number one enemy, said the writer. Mr. Arafat has given many concessions to Israel in order to arrive at a permanent peace, but the Israelis' greed seems to have no limit, and this prompted the Palestinian leader to act in accordance with the requirements of national interest, said the writer. He said that Israel had wanted to exploit the Jerusalem bombing and to see the Palestinian self-rule areas flare up in a civil strife, like that which devastated Lebanon, but Mr. Arafat has thwarted the Israeli hopes. The writer said that the Palestinian leadership has proved to be well aware of the Israeli plots directed against the whole Palestinian nation and acted wisely to retain and protect national unity.

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm criticised the private universities and schools for unjustifiably hiking their tuition fees to levels enabling only the rich to secure education for their children. Taher Adwan said that the days when a few hundred dinars were sufficient for students to acquire university education are gone, and nowadays families are concerned with their children's education and burdened by the cost if they are lucky to find the required institution. The writer said due to the very high and continually rising cost of living, few families can afford to secure higher education for their children in Jordan or abroad. He said that to make matters worse, excellent students sometimes find that students with lower grades are accepted at state universities, leaving them to face the only option of seeking higher education in expensive, private colleges and universities for which their parents more often than not resort to borrowing to enable them to fulfil their dream of obtaining higher education. He suggested that Jordan open the door for all students to enable them to have access to higher education, granting fair treatment to all.

## Washington Watch

## Arab Americans need to defend U.S. constitution and protect civil liberties for themselves and all vulnerable communities

By Dr. James J. Zogby

IN EARLY September, the national leadership of Arab Americans will meet at a summit in Washington to address critical issues facing U.S.-Arab relations and the Arab American community.

Heading the agenda will be the crisis in the Middle East peace process and the upcoming visit by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to the region. Deeply concerned by the breakdown in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, the freeze in negotiations on the Syrian track and the continuing danger of escalation in the conflict on the Lebanon-Israel front — the Arab American leaders will meet to analyse the roots of these crisis and make specific policy recommendations for U.S. initiatives to restore confidence to the deeply troubled search for a comprehensive peace. In addition to meeting among themselves, the Arab Americans will meet with high-level White House and State Department officials, members of the U.S. Congress, and Arab ambassadors to Washington.

The summit is timed right before the secretary of state leaves on her initial visit to the Middle East and just as the U.S. Congress convenes to complete its legislative work for 1997. As such, the meeting provides an excellent opportunity for Arab Americans to present ideas and develop strategies to impact both the administration and Congress.

Among the issues the Arab Americans must stress at the meeting with

the secretary of state are the need for the U.S. government to press the Israelis to stop settlement construction and to take immediate steps to free the Palestinian economy from the stranglehold resulting from the Israeli imposed closure and from Israeli protectionist policies.

If the Israeli-Palestinian final status talks are to succeed, the Arab Americans must urge the U.S. to play a stronger role in balancing the asymmetry between the Israeli and Palestinian sides. In preparation for peace talks, the U.S. must take concrete steps to improve U.S.-Palestinian ties, including preparing the way for U.S. recognition of the Palestinian right to statehood as the logical and necessary outcome of the peace process.

On the other tracks to the peace process, Arab Americans must urge the secretary of state to include Syria and Lebanon on the itinerary of her upcoming visit to the region. Such visits would give impetus to restarting talks on these two fronts. Arab Americans should also seek a more aggressive U.S. role in stopping a further deterioration in the conflict resulting from Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon. The U.S. should press all parties to adhere to the 1996 accord that protects civilians from being targeted in cross-border attacks.

At the September meeting, it will be important for Arab American leaders to confront the negative role played by the U.S. Congress. Recent legislative actions passed in

Congress threaten to disrupt the peace process and endanger the already fragile U.S. standing in the Middle East. In addition to discussing these issues with congressional representatives, the Arab American leaders must also formulate a strategy to take their concerns with congressional behaviour directly to U.S. voters in the 1998 legislative elections. Until such an electoral strategy is developed and implemented, Congress will remain a negative factor in U.S.-Arab relations.

In speaking to both the executive and legislative branches, it will be important for Arab Americans to stress how damaging recent U.S. actions have been to the perception of the U.S. in the Arab and Muslim worlds. It is important for Arab Americans, as Americans, to address this fundamental concern since the failure to recognise and remedy this situation can result in further damage to the U.S.-Arab relationship.

Finally, when they meet at the summit, Arab American leaders will address a number of critical concerns affecting the civil rights of Arab and Muslim Americans. Specifically, the group will address the discriminatory treatment meted out to Arab and Muslim Americans at airports resulting from the recently introduced passenger "profiling" used to screen out potential terrorists.

Arab Americans have already begun to launch an effective campaign to address this issue in the press through coalescing

with other affected communities and meetings with responsible agencies of the U.S. government to address this issue. But there is need to take this effort further by developing a comprehensive nationwide strategy that will challenge and put an end to discriminatory profiling.

Another domestic civil rights issue of grave concern to Arab Americans is the increase in the number of deportation cases that are based on the use of "secret evidence." This practice, which is allowed under the new "Anti-terrorism Law of 1996" permits the government to seek the deportation of individuals by presenting secret evidence directly to a judge without allowing the accused individual knowledge of the content or even source of the evidence. There are, at present, five such cases, involving twelve individuals; all but two of them are Arabs. Since this practice is in violation of the U.S. constitution, it is being challenged in the courts and Arab Americans are resolved to be in the forefront of combating these violations of fundamental rights.

These are the basic issues that should be raised by the Arab American leaders when they convene in September. This meeting will build on the past three successful Arab American summits. In those earlier meetings, Arab Americans from sixteen states representing over twenty-five national and local organisations gathered in Washington to develop consensus positions and

meet with White House and State Department officials informing them of Arab American concerns.

This summit, however, should take this process one step further by working to develop a national strategy that will focus energy and resources on the 1998 elections.

Arab Americans realise that they are uniquely positioned to challenge the lack of balance in the U.S. role in the Middle East. To do so, Arab Americans must organise and take their issue concerns directly to the electorate and confront policy makers who are steering the U.S. in a negative direction. In many ways, the future of the U.S. in the Middle East and the peace and stability of the region will depend in part on Arab American's playing their role in challenging the U.S. policy drift.

Arab Americans also realise that given the rightward drift of U.S. domestic policy, they have been cast in the critical role of defending the U.S. constitution and protecting civil liberties not only for themselves but for all vulnerable communities in the U.S. As the group currently most affected by recent anti-terrorism initiatives, Arab Americans have a special responsibility to challenge aspects of those initiatives that violate long-standing constitutional rights.

Given the timing and critical nature of the issues that the summit will address, it is imperative that the Arab Americans make at least some progress in their effort.

## 'The ticket to human decency is freedom and responsibility'

It is time for the Palestinians to declare their independence unilaterally. Suliman Olayan wrote in the Financial Times of Aug. 18:

IT IS said that even out of tragedy, like the recent deplorable suicide bombings in the Jerusalem marketplace, some good always comes. Sure enough, the Middle East peace process is stirring again.

The policy address on Aug. 6 by Madeleine Albright, U.S. secretary of state, has reinvigorated the process. I welcomed it because it seemed more than just another limp attempt to get beyond the latest grim episode of violence.

I applauded it because it called for accelerated movement towards resolution of the substantive issues, fully backed by the power of the office of the president of the United States. That used to mean a great deal to us in the Middle East. In spite of frequent disappointment over many years, and mounting disappointment of late, it still does.

Nevertheless, there is cause for deep concern. I hope this U.S. initiative will have sufficient thrust to propel the process forward towards a final comprehensive, lasting, just solution. But I have my doubts.

The secretary of state stressed that Israel and the Palestinians must reaffirm their commitment to partnership. Fair enough, but let us harbour no illusions that they are equal partners. Enormous responsibility has been placed upon the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), which, in the present scheme of things, is nothing more than a quasi-autonomous agency.

The PNA is expected to govern an impoverished people living in fractured and often isolated groups. It is expected to deliver social services, build an infra-

structure, develop civil institutions, boost the economy. Most of all, it is expected to search out, arrest and prosecute terrorists in its midst. The authority has the wherewithal to do none of these things.

However deplorable, however unconscionable, political terror has deep roots. It does not come from nowhere. It springs from diabolical soil, fertilised over time by repeated trauma. Never in the history of mankind has any elected head of state been able entirely to eradicate terrorism and crime. How can one expect the PNA to accomplish this almost impossible task?

Since the peace process, the situation has severely worsened for the Palestinian people. Gross

medical attention inflicted by Israeli security forces; Palestinian lands confiscated or otherwise lost; more than 250,000 fruit trees uprooted; virtually all water rights lost; homes sealed or demolished; more than 19,000 homes collectively demolished in Gaza in the 1970s; more than 700,000 Palestinians transferred or expelled; the construction of 175 Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza; and countless documented incidents of torture, harassment and numerous other indignities.

Since the peace process, the situation has severely worsened for the Palestinian people. Gross

Palestinians \$9 million a day. Maher Al Masri, the Palestinian minister of trade and economy, has described the effect of the collective punishment: "There is no foreign trade, tens of thousands of workers are being kept from their jobs, industrial production has stopped, the agricultural sector is paralysed, and transportation has been halted. The result is total collapse."

The PNA, an elected council, has "control" over a tiny fraction of Palestine, but the Palestinians have no authority over their own destiny. All the strings, especially the purse strings, are being pulled by others.

Libya, Iran and Iraq. Aside from the condescending paternalism in his words, Mr. Netanyahu begs the larger issue. What is the ticket?

The ticket to human decency is freedom and responsibility. The Palestinians shoulder heavy responsibilities with no sovereignty over self, soil or nation and certainly no freedom. Without freedom there is no dignity. Without dignity there can be no decency. ... The time has come for the Palestinians to declare their independence unilaterally. That would immediately remove a main subject from the agenda of the final status talks. Let us dispense now with all the veiled rhetoric about final status. Nationhood should not be negotiable for the long-suffering Palestinian people. Self-determination is not a carrot. It is not a technical issue about 'entities'. In this century, no one should know that better than Israel."

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In Palestine, the roots of dire discontent from which terrorism springs are three decades of unremitting occupation, in which a state-sponsored effort was made systematically to deprive the Palestinian people of their liberty and their livelihoods.

Since 1967, the Israeli government has sown the following in the soil of Palestine: more than 2,000 killings of unarmed Palestinians; more than 350,000 injuries needing

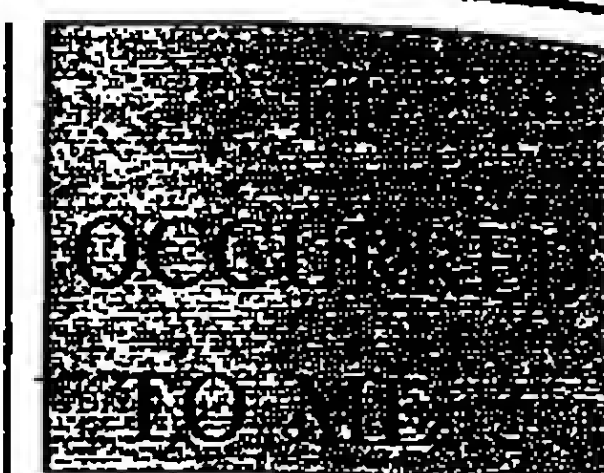
domestic product is reportedly down 38 per cent since the PNA took over three years ago, unemployment is soaring, and annual per capita income is now less than \$1,000. The reason is not inefficiency or alleged corruption. The reason is repeated Israeli border closings, depriving Palestinians of their livelihood, followed by the recent closures, urban blockades and a freeze on millions of dollars owed to the PNA.

The siege has cost the

namely the chief antagonist, their occupier. What can be done? Where do we go from here?

Without realising it, Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, may have given us the answer. In the wake of the bombings, he said he would not lift the latest round of sanctions until the Palestinians did more to earn "a ticket to the club of organised and civilised communities." He likened the sanctions to those against the nations of

I last wrote about this issue in November 1993, soon after the signing of the Oslo accords. I argued that, if the accords led to the liberation of a generation of both Palestinians and Israelis for productive rather than destructive enterprise, then peace in the Middle East might stand a chance.



## High tech's hex

By Ali Kassay

DURING A social evening not very long ago, I was amazed by a piece of information that cropped up in conversation with a friend of mine who is a professor of economics at one of the oldest and most renowned universities in Jordan. We were talking about some of the difficulties that Jordanian researchers face in carrying out their studies, and he mentioned that, in the department of economics, there is one personal computer shared by ten professors.

Foreigners present, particularly those who have not been in our dynamic country long enough to become familiar with its ways, immediately asked why professors do not buy their own computers like faculty members elsewhere. Some of the older hands, who thought they knew it all, immediately rejoined that the average university professor, or, for that matter, any professional who relies on his work to earn his living, may consider himself ahead of the game if he succeeds in keeping a roof over his head and bread on his table, without going to the extreme length of investing in equipment.

Though well-intentioned, this specious logic is equally flawed, and it misses the point by miles. You see, this is part of an ingenious Jordanian plot to promote research and development at home.

Many people in the big world around us are happy enough to import technology and very often their ambitions fall far short of their achievements since they lack the necessary infrastructure to cope with this technology. In many cases, the experiment fails at the man-machine interface level. Therefore, we in Jordan have opted for the more arduous, but much more rewarding approach of working on the human infrastructure first.

We have wisely decided to build our knowledge in a step by step approach. By creating the circumstances whereby professors do not have access to computers, we ensure that they neither use them in teaching, nor give students assignments that require their use. Hence, whether they like it or not, our professors concentrate in their research and teaching on the science of the fifties and sixties to double check whether the theories that are handed down to us are correct or not.

Given a few generations or so, we shall have built on solid foundations to the stage where computers were invented and came into everyday use. By then, when the great grandchildren of today's students of economics receive their first spreadsheet analysis assignment, they will deal with it from a starting point of certainty. Of course this assumes that today's students manage to secure employment that permits them to stay alive, procreate and educate their progeny, because in the great world beyond, for over ten years now, a graduate of economics who lacks computer skills has been considered unemployed.

In the good old days, it was fine for most Jordanians to hail the wisdom of our national achievements in the field of education, as I do, because most could afford to send their children to study abroad, and they did. Now with the great progress that our economy has achieved, this prerogative is limited to a very small section of our society. The rest, who face the serious prospect of having to educate their progeny locally, suddenly feel less convinced by their own exclamations of approbation.

## rafat says awaited

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## Palestinian tensions cloud Netanyahu's first visit to Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was on Tuesday facing a difficult task as he arrived in Japan to lift the crippling blockade of the Palestinian territories, and winning new promises of better economic ties.

Since arriving Sunday at the head of a business delegation and accompanied by Finance Minister Yashov Neeman for his first trip to Asia, Mr. Netanyahu has taken every opportunity to press Japan for deeper economic exchange, both commercial and technological.

He has stressed Israel's advantages saying it is "on the cutting edge of high technology," and highlighting the numbers of researchers and scientists of the former Soviet Union now living in his country.

But with the four-day trip overshadowed by tensions back home, his Japanese hosts have turned a deaf ear to his pleas, making few commitments.

The only major announcement so far was that the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) would open a representative office in Tel Aviv later in the year.

Instead, the Japanese authorities have proved more interested in pressing the Israeli premier on the economic sanctions imposed by Israel on the Palestinians, which Tokyo has judged as key to relaunching the peace process.

Mr. Netanyahu distanced himself from such an initiative, falling back

on repeated claims that the ball was in the court of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, whom he blamed for the present peace process paralysis.

Denouncing Mr. Arafat's embrace of Abdul Aziz Rantisi, a leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), Mr. Netanyahu urged the Palestinian leader to adopt "a clear position" on the question of terrorism against Israel.

"He [Arafat] has to decide if he wants peace with Hamas or peace with Israel," Mr. Netanyahu told a news conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan. "He cannot have both. He must take a clear stance."

Mr. Netanyahu said Mr. Arafat "must keep with his obligation" under the Oslo accord that requires an end to terrorism.

"If Arafat allows the bombs to explode... peace cannot move very far," he said, adding that a single step would yield significant benefits.

Mr. Netanyahu said he would lift a blockade on Palestinian territory if the threat of terrorism was removed.

"If he does this single commitment the main opportunity is then to move as rapidly as possible towards a final settlement," Mr. Netanyahu said.

Mr. Arafat launched a reconciliation campaign last week with Hamas and the smaller more radical group Islamic Jihad, a move that has been harshly criticised by Israel and the U.S.

A degree of irritation

was perceptible on both the Japanese and Israeli sides during this week's talks.

Mr. Netanyahu responded dryly to questions from the Japanese media regarding the soundness of Israel's political manoeuvring over the Palestinians.

One Japanese official who briefed the foreign press Monday about the content of the talks between Mr. Netanyahu and counterpart Ryutaro Hashimoto did not hide the fact that there were problems in preparing for the visit.

Mr. Netanyahu had been invited to visit last year by Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda when he visited the Middle East region.

"The timing was rather hastily set up this time," the official said.

"Therefore, we, of course, welcomed him here, but at the same time we did not have much time for preparation," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu addressed Monday the Federation of Employers' Federations (Keidanren) and Tuesday visited the premises of the Sony Corporation.

He was also to meet with Japanese parliamentarians, as well as calling on International Trade and Industry Minister Shinji Sato and Defence Agency Director-General Fumio Kyuma.

Mr. Netanyahu leaves Tokyo early Wednesday for Seoul, the final stop on his Asian tour that first took him to Beijing.

## Israeli tear gas floods Palestinian girls school, hospitalising many children

(Continued from page 1)

closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which has Palestinian residents from entering Israel. The biblical town has been hardest hit because its 60,000 residents have also been prohibited from leaving their community, and tourists cannot enter.

Israel imposed the closure July 30, in response to a suicide bombing by Islamists in a Jerusalem market. Israel reportedly suspects that two leaders of Hamas with possible links to the bombing are hiding in Bethlehem.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) said Tuesday that the closure costs the Palestinian economy \$8 million each day, including \$3.2 million in lost wages of workers who cannot get to jobs in Israel.

The 1997 Palestinian budget deficit, initially expected to be around \$51.8 million, will go up to \$400 million as a result of the closure, said Khaled Salam, an economic adviser to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. The annual budget is about \$800 million.

The Palestinian economics minister, Maher Masri, said a partial boycott of Israeli goods, called last week in retaliation for the closure, was being observed by Palestinian consumers and shopkeepers. "The success is manifested by the low amount of products confiscated," Mr. Masri told a news conference.

Tuesday's violence in Bethlehem began when about 35 Palestinians threw stones and empty bottles at Israeli troops guarding Rachel's Tomb, an Israeli

enclave in the Palestinian-controlled city.

Soldiers fired tear gas and rubber bullets to quell the riot. Seven tear gas canisters landed in the courtyard of the elementary school, witnesses said. Classrooms had their windows open because of the warm summer temperatures, allowing the tear gas to seep in.

The army said that at one point during the clash, Palestinians had thrown stones from outside the school. Soldiers aimed tear gas at the rioters, and inadvertently hit the school, the army said. Soldiers later complied with Palestinian requests to stop firing tear gas so the students could leave the school.

Mr. Netanyahu has said the sanctions will only be lifted once Mr. Arafat orders the arrests of leading Islamists from the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), and dismantles their armed groups.

Mr. Arafat has refused to launch such a widespread crackdown but has insisted his self-rule authority is cooperating in security meetings with Israeli officials monitored by representatives from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

The U.S. repeated calls Monday for Mr. Arafat to step up the fight against terrorism ahead of a long-awaited visit to the region by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, expected in September.

"We believe that this is the highest priority right now," State Department spokesman James Rubin said.

## Jordan-U.S. sign agreements worth over \$100m in assistance

(Continued from page 1)

management in the Greater Amman area, Aqaba and the Jordan Valley and will improve the efficiency of water supply to Amman and other "selected" areas. Some money will also be used to protect the King Talal Reservoir from the effects of silting and other "priority activities" in the water sector.

Support for the country's water sector is part of an on-going U.S. aid initiative. Recently, USAID dedicated \$10 million for a wastewater system in the Wadi Musa area. According to a source at USAID, the design for the project is complete and construction is expected to commence at the end of this year. The project is expected to be completed in two years. The agency has also introduced a \$12.6 million expanded aeration system at a water treatment plant near Zarqa, and has an on-going multi-million techni-

cal assistance contract with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation allocated to a water management and information system and a water quality and quantity monitoring system that will run through 1998.

Also yesterday, Jordan signed to receive \$3.4 million for the Population and Family Health Strategic Objective, the second and final tranche of U.S. assistance to the Population and Family Health Programme. The strategic objective this year totals \$5.4 million.

U.S. officials have indicated that U.S. assistance to Jordan are expected to total more than \$100 million per year for the next four years. Mr. Egan said that President Clinton intended the new Peace and Stability Fund to be a multi-year fund, but that "this would depend on consultations with Congress because the fund requires annual appropriations."

## A penguin's life has its dark side

TORGERSEN ISLAND, Antarctica (R) — Research is starting to reveal some surprising and at times unsavoury secrets about penguins, those elegantly feathered symbols of Antarctica.

They steal each others' eggs and come close to pecking each other to death to defend their territory at remote, windswept nesting sites like tiny Torgersen Island. The new research also suggests penguins' pugnacity at their nesting sites could be linked to testosterone, the male hormone that rages through penguin blood early in the mating season and which, in humans, is popularly associated with aggressive behaviour.

The difference is that in penguins hormonal secretions are all calibrated by natural selection to give the birds' fluffy, grey offspring the best possible chance at surviving in a harsh environment, researchers say.

"The thing that most impresses me about the penguins is how attached they are to their young and to their nesting sites," said Carol Vleck, an Iowa State University zoologist.

Blood samples from Adelie penguins taken by Ms. Vleck hint at a hormonal drive behind the eccentric, at times violent behaviour of penguins early in their breeding cycle, followed by a more nurturing phase when chicks hatch and testosterone levels crash.

"It's extraordinary to see how much personality they have," Ms. Vleck said, standing among hundreds of jabbering, wide-eyed penguins on the island near the U.S. National Science Foundation's Palmer Station Research site.

"They make a sudden shift from aggression and defending their territory early in the breeding season to raising and nurturing their chicks later on. And you can see hormonal changes behind that shift."

The Iowa state study is one of several on little-understood aspects of penguins, who are notoriously hard to study because they spend most of their lives at sea and breed in a tough climate. Recent research into another species, the emperor penguin, has shown that males incubate the eggs for nine weeks in temperatures ranging down to -60 C during winter and the penguins can dive down to 630 metres, making them possibly the world's deepest-diving birds.

The Adelie penguin's breeding cycle starts in October, when the winter ice pack starts melting and the male and female come ashore to court and stake out territory. The female lays two tennis-ball sized eggs in a nest made of pebbles and heads out alone to the open sea to fatten up on krill, a shrimp-like crustacean.

The male, meanwhile, stays at home to keep the eggs warm and protect them from skuas, hawk-like birds that terrorise nesting sites. When the female returns, the male, who has been fasting for up to a month, leaves to feed and the two then alternate every couple of days in incubating the eggs until the chicks hatch by late December. By March, when winter starts its onslaught, the young are ready to fend for themselves.

The penguins' few months on land, when daylight lasts about 22 hours and food is abundant, give researchers a brief look at how they live and interact, not always in a positive way.

Penguins have been known to steal eggs from their neighbours or usurp another's nest, take over the chick and raise it — odd behaviour since "it makes no evolutionary sense at all," Ms. Vleck said. Males and females constantly defend their territory or try to expand it at neighbours' expense, sometimes violently.

Ms. Vleck once saw penguins peck a neighbour

nearly to death to try to carve out more nesting territory. One of the attacking birds was found to have unusually high levels of testosterone.

Penguin parents cannot leave their offspring alone for a second lest they be eaten by skuas or their territory swiped by neighbours. They nest in extremely close quarters, apparently because a closer concentration makes it harder for flying predators to grab eggs and chicks. A 50-metre square plot can have hundreds of nesting pairs and there is fierce competition among penguins for the best sites.

Not all penguins manage to find a mate. Those that do not "just kind of wander around looking forlorn," while others make a nest and go through all the motions of incubating eggs even though there are none, a practice that "could be some kind of practice for next year," Ms. Vleck said.

She sees all this behaviour as part of a kind of internal programming to raise young, a genetic automatic pilot that keeps them sitting on the nest for days even if the eggs have been eaten by a skua or stolen by a neighbour. She and her research team draw blood from about 300 penguins each season, catching them with nets and drawing bright-red blood from the bird's neck.

Studies of penguin populations could give crucial data into climate changes in Antarctica. For example, a decline in Adelie penguins and an increase in another species, the chinstrap, could be an indirect result of a slight warming in Antarctic over the past 30 years, said William Fraser, an ecologist from Montana State University and chief scientist at Palmer station.

Adelie penguins prefer to spend the winter on pack ice, which has become scarcer as the climate warms, while chinstraps prefer open water, potentially giving them an advantage in the race for food, he said.

## Syria restraining Lebanese guerrillas — Netanyahu

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Netanyahu, who is currently on a visit to Japan, told Israeli reporters Syria has begun to restrain the Iranian-backed Lebanese guerrilla group Hizbollah, which is trying to expel Israeli forces from the strip of land they occupy in south Lebanon.

"I get the impression that the Syrians have made an effort to calm the situation in Lebanon. I hope that effort will continue in the days, weeks and months to come."

Asked if this has improved the chances of renewing the peace talks with Syria, Mr. Netanyahu replied "of course this helps to improve the atmosphere, and improvement of the atmosphere increases the chances, up to a point."

Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations, held at the Wye Plantation in Maryland, broke down in February 1996, following a series of suicide bombings by Islamist militants in Israel.

Syria says that during the negotiations, the previous Labour government in

Israel, made a verbal promise to withdraw from the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war.

Syria demands that Mr. Netanyahu confirm the promise, as a condition for resumption of the peace talks.

Mr. Netanyahu refuses. He has not ruled out the possibility of Israel making some territorial concession in the Golan, but insists that resumption of talks should be unconditional.



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# Minister of finance says 'national scheme' should follow IMF adjustment programme

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Finance Suleiman Hafez has called for a "national scheme" to follow up on the Economic Adjustment Programme (EAP) that the Kingdom signed with the International Monetary Fund in 1989 and is

expected to complete by 1998.

Evaluating the programme with members of the Jordan Exporters Association (JEA) Monday evening, Mr. Hafez said that the follow-up scheme should focus on reducing current spending and decreasing public expenditure.

The minister added that the scheme should also involve increasing public revenue. Borrowing from various sources should be discouraged, he said.

Mr. Hafez said the Kingdom should start putting the pillars of the follow-up scheme to ensure the continuity of EAP and preserve its outcomes.

The minister emphasised that the restructuring programme has succeeded in its objectives, namely reducing the deficit in the annual budget to nine per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), halting the retreat in the GDP to four per cent in 1993, removing the current account deficit and reducing inflation to 6.5 per cent.

He noted that in order to implement the programme, which was introduced in 1989 but amended in 1992 following the Gulf war, the government resorted to imposing a gradual tax on consumption as a step forward to enforcing the value added tax.

Mr. Hafez added that the government also imposed several customs duties on luxury items, exempted national savings, investments and capitals from taxes, carried out a gradual cancellation of food subsidies, reconsidered the prices of fuel, maintained a good foreign exchange reserve and turned foreign loans into investments.

He said that among several accomplishments of the adjustment programme was the maintaining of a six per cent growth in the GDP in 1993, and a 5.5 to 6.5 per cent growth during the following four years.

Mr. Hafez said the budget deficit was reduced to 6.4 per cent of the GDP in 1993, to 5.3 in 1994 and to 2.5 per cent in the subsequent three years.

He stressed that the Kingdom succeeded in preserving the investment rate of 23 per cent of GDP and increasing local savings to reach 11 per cent through the programme period.

He also added that the Treasury succeeded in reducing the deficit in the current account on a gradual basis to reach 10.4 per cent from the GDP in 1993, 7.2 per cent in 1994 and was deficit free in 1997.

Regarding inflation, the minister said that throughout the programme years, inflation stood at 4.5 per cent.

Mr. Hafez said the government preserved a "flexible interest rate" throughout the programme tenure.

He said that as a result of these achievements, the government and the World Bank introduced an expanded adjustment programme for the years 96, 97 and 98 with more ambitious goals such as a 2.5

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## The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
US Dollar	1.0000	1.8462	0.6301	1.5189	117.48	1.3937	1801.25	2.0800	6.2238
DE Mark	0.5417	1.0000	0.3410	0.8221	63.63	0.7544	174.95	1.2527	3.5882
GB Sterling	1.5870	2.9315	1.0000	2.4113	188.33	2.2118	2880.75	3.3031	9.8842
CH Franc	0.6584	1.2142	0.4141	1.0000	77.33	0.9188	1188.11	137.25	4.0836
JP Yen	0.0085	1.5711	0.5357	1.2927	1.0000	1.1858	15.32	176.86	5.2857
CA Dollar	0.7175	1.3305	0.4505	1.0544	1.19	1.0000	1295.55	1.4878	4.4812
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0251	0.3486	0.8043	155.16	0.7738	1.00	1.54	3.4045
NL Guilder	0.4808	0.8880	0.3029	0.7308	58.48	0.6704	868.12	1.00	2.9229
FR Franc	0.1807	0.2987	0.1012	0.24094	18.85	0.2239	33.41	33.4100	1.00

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAB	QAR	KWD	AED	LYD	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7050	3.7500	0.3770	3.6400	0.3063	3.6728	1538.00	3.3850
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000	5.2975	0.5325	5.1412	0.4311	5.1878	2172.32	4.7811
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1888	1.0000	0.1005	0.97	0.0814	0.96	410.07	0.9025
Bahrain Dinar	2.85	1.8781	9.9481	1.0000	8.86	0.8097	9.74	4079.78	8.9793
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	1.0000	0.8839	1.01	422.53	0.9299
Kuwait Dinar	3.2780	2.2194	12.2870	1.2280	11.92	1.0000	12.03	5036.49	0.9299
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0212	1.0206	0.9911	0.8831	1.00	418.75	0.9216
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4603	2.4388	0.2451	2.3867	0.1885	2.3880	1.00	2.2009
Egyptian	0.2954	0.2092	1.1080	0.1114	1.0753	0.0902	1.0850	454.38	1.00

Energy		Oil	Gas
Brant	18.99	19.17	
W. Texas	20.14	20.04	
Bonny	18.99	19.17	
Dubai	17.50	17.70	
UL Gas	217.00	213.00	

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4928	0.1679	0.4054	31.338				
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.503	0.1715	0.414	31.992				
KW Dinar	3.2760	6.0533	2.0631	4.9801	384.91				
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.902	1.6706	4.0339	311.72				
CY Pound	1.8385	3.3937	1.1573	2.7916	215.89				

Metal Prices		Gold	Silver	Platinum	AL (3 Months)	CU (3 Months)	Zinc (3 Months)	Lead (3 Months)	Ni (3 Months)
Gold (oz's)	323	323.5							
Silver (oz's)	4.52	4.54							
Platinum (oz's)	413	416							
AL (3 Months)	1844	1848							
CU (3 Months)	2186	2190							
Zinc (3 Months)	1494	1498							
Lead (3 Months)	820	823							
Ni (3 Months)	6730	6750							

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
USD	5.43	5.59	5.89	5.78	5.87				
GBP	6.94	7.00	7.12	7.18	7.31				
JPY	0.44	0.45	0.45	0.56	0.47				
DEM	3.12	3.21	3.35	3.43	3.44				
FRF	3.23	3.31	3.40	3.52	3.58				
CHF	1.33	1.38	1.53	1.43	1.70				
ITL	6.73	6.70	6.60	6.43	6.37				

Main Equity Indices									
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Chg		
New York	DOW JONES	7894.52	-26.71	-0.33	8023.1	7888.5	8021.2		
New York	S&P 500	838.86	-2.89	-0.34	839.47	838.28	839.35		
London	FT-SE 100	4983.7	25.3	0.51	4994.1	4982.5	4988.4		
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	19157.12	-95.11	-0.49	19394	19125	19282		
Paris	CAC 40	2960.83	-18.84	-0.63	2992.6	2951	2979.3		
Frankfurt	DAX	4253.87	30.24	0.72	4278.5	4241.7	4223.4		

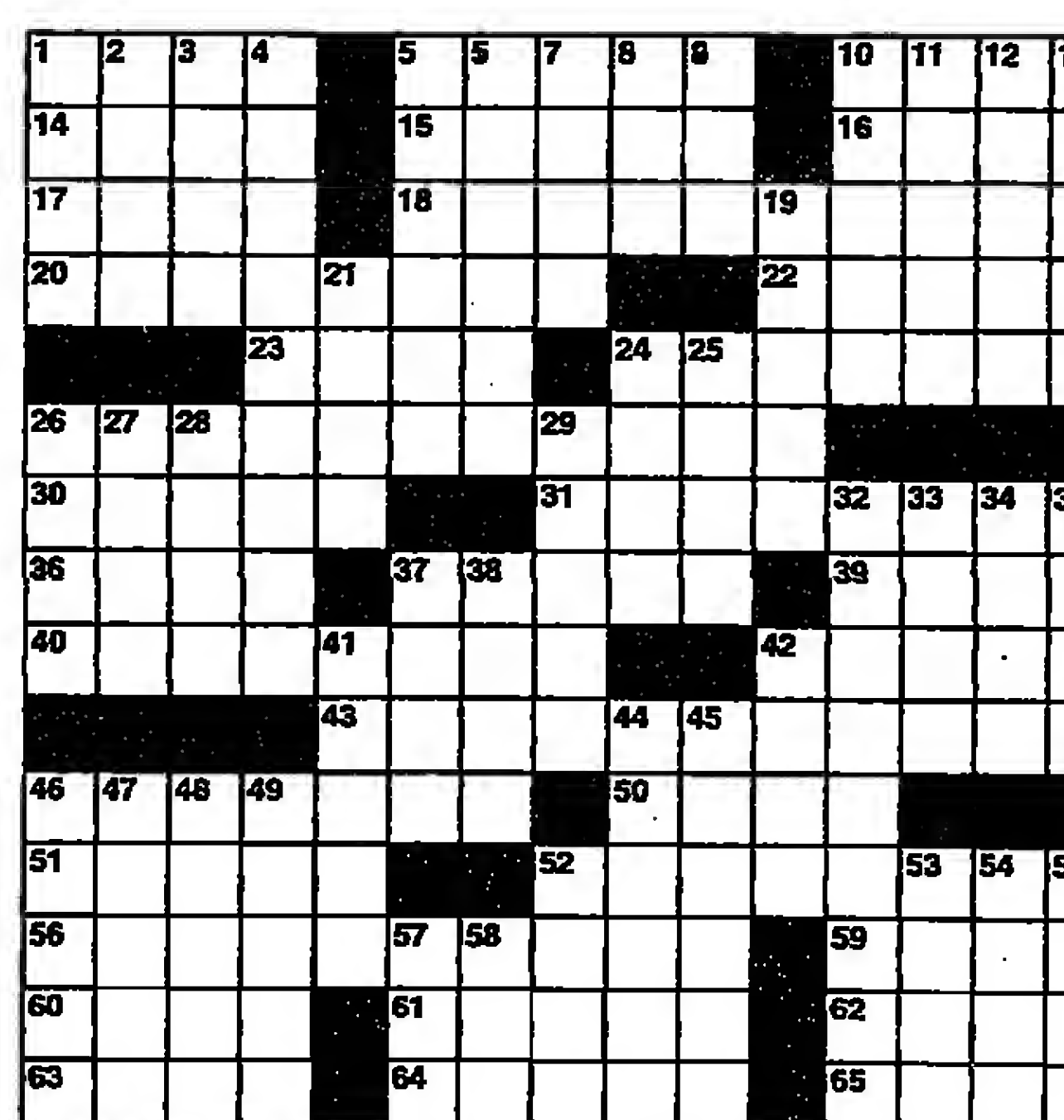
Energy		Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/b)	170	Spot		
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1598	Spot		
Sugar (\$/ton)	347.6	Spot		
Wheat (\$/ton)	143	Spot		
Soya (c/b)	22.02	Spot		
Tea (c/b)	185	Spot		
Barley (\$/bush)	0	Spot		
Rice (\$/ton)	450	Spot		

JOD Cross Rates			
Currency	Buy	Sell	
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	
GB Sterling	1.1282	1.1318	
DE Mark	0.2808	0.2827	
CH Franc	0.4639	0.4662	
FR Franc	0.113	0.1136	
JP Yen	0.5899	0.6029	
NL Guilder	0.3382	0.3389	
IT Lira	0.3912	0.3932	

\* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

## THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- Swiss mountains
  - "— Day's Night"
  - Be in accord
  - One thing
  - Impish person
  - Norse god
  - Run-down house
  - "The —" (Wambaugh novel)
  - Tiara stones
  - Plains Indian
  - Writer Gardner
  - Horse groom
  - Reduces costs
  - Sussex city
  - Sheer fabrics
  - Actor Ken
  - Kind of cabbage
  - New Rochelle college
  - Five-pointed star
  - Lit up
  - Energetic
  - Natural force
  - Empty pitchers
  - Viking deities
  - Upright
  - Malibu university
  - Excellent
  - Verb suffix
  - Extra
  - Taloo act
  - Letter opener
  - Unskilled
  - Traverse



by Richard Thomas

## Puzzle solved:

GRAM	CAROM	HEMP
HONE	ALARM	ALOE
EVIDENTIAL	WENT	
RESILIENT	MAMAS	
IDEATE	BOWTIE	
TOR	ORIGINAL	
DEVON	SWINE	TOO
ITOR	ETWEE	HANA
DOL	TARAS	DELED
ONCEOVER	OIL	
ASPEAR	TAMING	
HENCE	MISTLETOE	
OMOO	ALOHA	STATE
PIER	SEROW	ELIS
ERST	ATSEA	DONE

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- DOWN
- "the Obscure" (Hardy title)
  - E pluribus
  - Hoarfrost
  - Currently
  - Handsome man
  - Impede
  - Center line
  - Bravo
  - Home room
  - Ceiling beam
  - Standard of excellence
  - Nonsense
  - One who terminates
  - Bone cavity
  - Circle sections
  - Sandwich
  - Bachchanal
  - Hoof sound
  - Close river
  - Close sib
  - Different
  - Lagos citizenry
  - Author Emile
  - In a second
  - Foms lumber
  - Hare tail
  - Comrade
  - Blazing
  - Border on
  - Start shooting
  - Ranger's domain
  - Starred
  - Noted Della
  - Humane org.
  - Treacherous one
  - Melon plant
  - up (confine)
  - "— Karenina"
  - Spinks or Panetta
  - Diamond stat
  - Oxford tutor

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson,  
Astrologer, Carroll  
Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Solve divided loyalty between personal wishes, family affairs and business interests today by dividing time among each. Show greater affection for your loved ones later this evening and they will be quite appreciative.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Try to keep a closer eye today on distant situation than those close at hand. Take risks with new contacts who have much to teach you. Later this evening will be a good time to meet with knowledgeable people.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Focus on upgrading your property so that you can have guests into your home and make them feel welcome. Settle all personal accounts today and try not to leave any business matters hanging. Be honest with yourself.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Make sure you have enough support today for your plans from those who matter before acting. Outline an understanding with a fellow associate, thereby there won't be any misunderstanding between you both.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Question your established method of handling daily duties today and devise a better method of operation. Be as sensitive as possible, especially towards the feelings of your loved ones. Labour on friendships at the office.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Today could not be the day to rely on others, whether friends or helpers. Try new forms of entertainment with your loved ones. Act bravely, independently, and charmingly towards others especially those in authority.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Labour to fulfil personal obligations before you go out to handle business matters. You should not accept outside invitations, instead concentrate upon career activities. You can entertain at home with close friends.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You should not neglect routines today even though you are immersed in a new interest. Handle important correspondence which you have neglected. Your evening should be filled with pleasure, thereby relax at home with loved ones.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) At present, precision is important in handling vital business interests; this will enable you to do a favour for one you like. Try to gain insight into an old enemy whom you feel different towards at this time.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Use great care in all your motions today, especially those which involve being on the highway. Be gentle when dealing with one who is quite emotional. Labour on some civic duty in the afternoon.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You may feel restricted by conditions beyond your control today, however, try to work harder. You should not let your mate's unreasonable nature hurt other relationships, especially those which involve career activities.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Labour out sensitive situations with an older person early in the morning today, and waste no time before having fun with congenials. Confront your desires to put off your career activities and thereby you can be successful.

Birthstone of August:  
Peridot — Golden Quartz

tourist transpor  
form alliance  
fares by 30

S. J. GSP

Seminar to be  
month to shed lig  
Mediterranean I

THE BETTER HALF.

more cutbacks at wo  
disk space on the co  
net allowed to use vo

JUMBLE

CHIRB

TULFE

WAWALY

HUGSUF

Print answer here

Print answer here



## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

## Tourist transport companies form alliance and raise fares by 30 per cent

JETT, ALFA, Petra have formed a coalition and raised tourist transport fares by 30 per cent for tourist tours that last less than four days. The president of the Association of Travel and Tour Agents said the increase in fares will negatively affect the number of tourists coming to Jordan. He explained that higher fares will affect the Jordanian prices offered in international markets and will render them unable to compete with those offered by neighbouring countries. Consequently, tourism will shift to other countries, the head of the association said.

Lam'i Haddadin said the justification given by the tourist transport companies that they are losing is not logical. "They claim to have incurred losses last year and that they were giving prices below cost. To the contrary, their prices were profitable," Mr. Haddadin stressed.

The travel and tour agents will meet with the transport companies to try to reach an understanding. They might establish a new tourist transport company or buy shares in the companies that are currently operating (Al Ra'i).

## U.S. renews GSP until mid '98

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton has approved an extension to the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for another year to end June 1998, the commercial attaché at the U.S. Embassy wrote to the president of the Amman Chamber of Industry. The GSP applies to all products that entered the U.S. when the regulation expired at the end of last May. By backdating the effect of the GSP to May, the U.S. exempts the goods that were not cleared by customs from fees or will reimburse the fees that were paid.

The GSP exempts from customs fees nearly 4,000 items of imports from countries given that privilege by the U.S. As a beneficiary, Jordanian exports of mainly clothing and carpets are exempted from the customs, but the volume is still small. The GSP offers exporters from Jordan an opportunity to increase their sales to the U.S. through continued marketing and direct contacts with U.S. importers (J.T.).

## Seminar to be held next month to shed light on Euro-Mediterranean partnership

THE AMMAN Chamber of Industry (ACI) will hold an "intensive seminar" on Sept. 22-23, 1997 to spread awareness among businessmen and industrialists about the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and its privileges, obligations and negative aspects. The seminar, which will be organised in cooperation with Conrad Adenauer Institute, will also cover the partnership's influence on the activities of the private sector and the extent to which Jordanians can be in harmony with the requirements of the partnership.

Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Anani will deliver the opening speech and the seminar will later hold six working sessions to discuss working papers. Economists from the Jordanian public and private sectors will attend the seminar which will also be attended by experts from international institutions (I.T.).

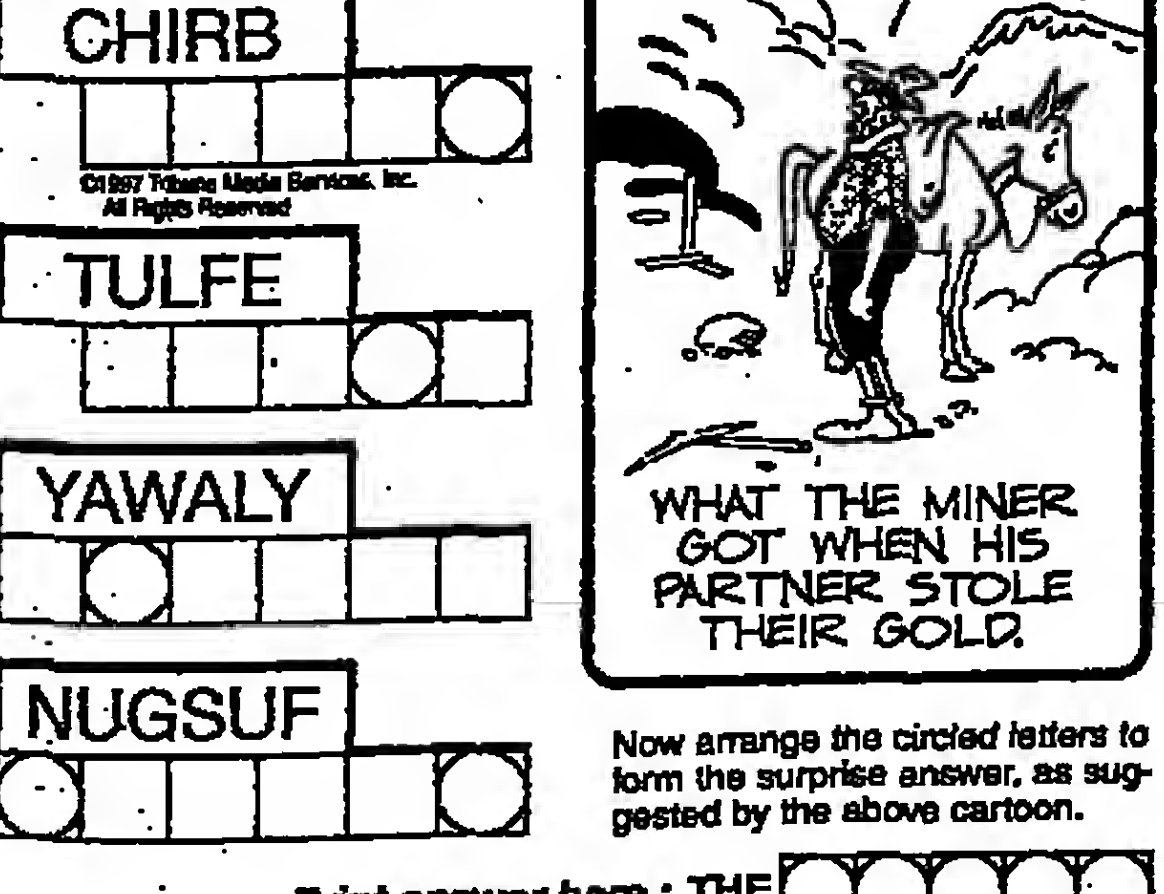
## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"More cutbacks at work. To conserve disk space on the computers, we're not allowed to use vowels anymore."

## JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: THE (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SWASH BOUND DISMAL VOYAGE Answer: Working on those stomach muscles can be this - AN "AB-SESSION"

## Poverty, unemployment are still serious challenges

(Continued from page 8)

budget deficit of the GDP, an increase in hard currency reserves and maintaining the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar.

In order to accomplish these goals, the minister said, the government encouraged privatisation, continued to reform the public finance department, developed the stock market, improved the Social Safety Net (SSN) and improved the investment climate in Jordan.

Mr. Hafez said the major accomplishments of the programme were that the government recorded a 6.5 per cent growth in GDP compared with 3.1 per cent in the six years that preceded the launching of the restructuring programme and the budget deficit (foreign aid excluded) retreated from 21.6 per cent of GDP prior to 1988 to 4.6 per cent in 1996.

Mr. Hafez said the inflation rate decreased from

18.1 per cent in 1989 to 3.6 per cent in 1995 and five per cent in 1996.

Among the most important achievements, the minister added, was the retreat of the public debt from 180 per cent of the GDP, one of the highest in the world, in 1988 to 99 per cent of the GDP in 1996.

Mr. Hafez said the Kingdom's reduced its foreign debt to \$6.7 billion due to several measures, including writing off \$650 million of U.S. debt to Jordan, \$72 million of British debts and \$27.5 million of Swiss debts.

Mr. Hafez emphasised that 325 million French francs were swapped following an agreement with France, at a concessional rate reaching 50 per cent. He added that the U.K. also agreed to swap \$40 million of its debt. The Kingdom also rescheduled \$450 million of its debt with the Paris Club.

"Through all these moves, we managed to

reduce the foreign debt," Mr. Hafez told businesspersons, reporters and members of the JEA.

But the minister emphasised that poverty and unemployment are still serious challenges to the government, stating that 15 per cent of the Kingdom's population is unemployed.

He said that in a bid to overcome these problems, the government resorted to a national strategy which included restructuring the National Aid Fund, improving the infrastructure of the poverty pockets in Jordan and financing small scale projects.

Responding to a question from economist Fahed Fanek, who claimed that the government was borrowing from outside to finance the SSN programme which he described as a "settling programme" of Palestinian refugees, the minister refused Dr. Fanek's claims.

He emphasised that the

programme was not one of "settling" of refugees in the Kingdom but was introduced to improve the poverty pockets in the Kingdom, including the areas close to Palestinian refugee communities in Jordan.

Mr. Hafez said government contributions to the \$700 million SSN programme were merely \$7 million, and the bulk of the finance will be attained through grants and loans.

Regarding the government decision to float \$100 million of sovereign bonds on the world market, the minister said the plan was meant to buy back some of its \$6.7 billion foreign debts.

"I strongly support not allocating one cent, one cent of the bond for any expenditure through the budget for outside... we will use the money fully to buy the bar bonds (Jordan debts abroad)," Mr. Hafez emphasised.

## Private firm to handle cargo at Jeddah port

DUBAI (R) — Cargo operations at Saudi Arabia's busiest harbour, Jeddah, will be handled by a private shipping services firm from Wednesday, a company official said.

The move, handing over responsibility for certain previously state-run services, is part of the kingdom's drive to give the private sector a bigger role in the economy.

"Our contract with Saudi Arabia's port authority starts at midnight and will run for the next 10 years," Imad Abdul Jawad, general manager of Group Marine Services (GMS) told Reuters by telephone from Jeddah.

He said the contract, which covers handling all roll-on roll-off vessels, car carriers, general and passenger cargo, was based on a revenue-sharing formula giving the ports authority 53 per cent of the cargo handling revenue.

GMS, founded in 1975 as a family business based in the eastern city of Dammam, specialises in shipping, stevedoring, port maintenance and overland transport.

Mr. Abdul Jawad said four companies were short-listed for the deal which went to the highest bidder. "We expect to make some profit after we recover our initial investment costs over the first 10-year period," he said, adding that GMS is

investing about \$10 million in new machinery, manpower and computers.

Jeddah, on the Red Sea, handles nearly one million containers a year, making it the kingdom's busiest port.

Saudi Ports Authority head Mohammad Bakr said in May all Saudi ports — six main commercial and two industrial — were covering the cost of their operation. The ports generated 1.2 billion riyals (\$320 million) in revenue in 1996.

The authority put profits generated by Saudi ports in 1995 at \$58 million riyals.

Saudi Arabia has agreed to let the private sector take over operation, maintenance and management of docks and equipment used by the kingdom's ports authority.

The move, endorsed by King Fahd, is in line with efforts to provide more investment opportunities for the private sector in running and operating the kingdom's public establishments.

Under the scheme, the authority would retain a supervisory role over ports on the Red Sea and Gulf coasts to ensure there were no new price rises in handling fees.

"It is not what one would call complete privatisation nor is it a subcontract, it is a flexible semi-privatisation programme," Mr. Abdul Jawad said.

## Israel 'dreams' of high speed railway in Middle East

Tokyo (R) — Israel has dreams of building a high-speed railway similar to the Japanese "Bullet" train to connect Tel Aviv and occupied Jerusalem, Israeli Finance Minister Yaacov Neeman said Tuesday.

A Japanese finance ministry official said Mr. Neeman, in a meeting with his Japanese counterpart Hiroshi Mitsuoka, went on to say that he hoped the railway would in the future extend to Amman, Damascus and ultimately Cairo.

The official said, however, that Mr. Neeman used the word "dream" and that it seemed unlikely that the

Israelis had any concrete plans for such a railway at the moment.

The official quoted Mr. Mitsuoka as saying Japan would consider providing cooperation if the idea takes shape.

Mr. Mitsuoka was also quoted as saying Japan will provide support to an Israeli water-purification project planned with Jordan, although the official offered no further details.

Mr. Neeman is in Japan accompanying Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on a visit lasting until Wednesday.

## Saudis warned against bogus foreign companies

RIYADH (AFP) — The Saudi Commerce Ministry has warned its nationals to beware of bogus foreign companies trying to con them into parting with their money. A ministry statement said that "bogus foreign companies operating outside the kingdom recently sent Saudi citizens letters telling them they had won prizes of money, gold or diamonds." "These companies ask citizens to pay a sum of money to receive their prizes," the ministry added, urging Saudis to be on their guard. Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich Gulf monarchies have been the target for a number of fraudulent schemes in recent years, many of them emanating from Africa.

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## U.S. Open

## Sampras and Seles sail into 2nd round; Ivanisevic out

NEW YORK (AFP) — Pete Sampras capped the celebratory first day of the 1997 U.S. Open Monday with a straightforward straight-set victory over Australian qualifier Todd Larkham.

Sampras, bidding to join Jimmy Connors as the only men to claim five U.S. Open titles in the Open era, took the court of the new Arthur Ashe Stadium minutes after a ceremony in honor of the late champion.

After the speeches and fireworks, Sampras' 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 victory was almost an anti-climax, although Larkham, ranked 204th in the world, had clearly decided to enjoy himself.

"It was just the experience of a lifetime," said Larkham, a 20-year-old from Canberra who spends most of his time on the Challenger circuit. "I've played my whole life to walk out there. No way I wasn't going to enjoy it."

He admitted to some jitters before the match in the new stadium, which seats more than 23,000, but said he thought he had them under control shortly into the first set.

Controlling Sampras, however, was another mat-



Greg Rusedski of the United Kingdom makes a serve to David Wheaton of the United States during their first-round match at the U.S. Open in New York August 25. Rusedski beat Wheaton 6-2 6-3 6-3 (Reuters photo)

came early, as unseeded Romanian Dinu Pescariu ousted fourth-seeded Croatian Goran Ivanisevic 4-6, 7-5, 6-1, 7-6 (7/3). Ivanisevic served 24 aces, but even they couldn't make

up for inconsistencies that mushroomed as the match progressed.

Pescariu, ranked 91st in the world and playing in the U.S. Open main draw for the first time, took full

advantage. "In the beginning I was not touching his serves," Pescariu said.

"Then he started serving worse, and we started rallying on his serve and that

## U.S. Open Diary

• **Stoltenberg looks to Davis Cup:** A first-round ouster here Monday at the U.S. Open continued a difficult season for Australia's Jason Stoltenberg, who now looks ahead to next month's Davis Cup semi-final tie against the United States. Felix Mantilla, the 12th seed from Spain, beat 56th-ranked Stoltenberg 7-6 (7/4), 6-3, 6-2, inflicting the earliest Grand Slam farewell upon the Aussie since the 1996 Australian Open. Stoltenberg will join Pat Rafter, Mark Philippoussis and the world number one doubles team of Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde against Pete Sampras, Michael Chang, Jim Courier and Alex O'Brien. "I realize I don't have a good chance of playing," Stoltenberg said. "But I'm still going to go in with the attitude as if I were playing, try and prepare the best I can for myself as well as them. It's going to be interesting. We have a realistically good chance of winning. Sampras and Chang are one and two in the world. But under Davis Cup conditions, we have nothing to lose. We are going to go in and enjoy it. We will be fired up."

• **17 meets 70:** Venus Williams, the 17-year-old sensation, won the first U.S. Open match of her career on Monday, as Althea Gibson, the African American woman who won the title in 1957 and 1958, turned 70. "She did a lot for tennis," Williams said. "Players like myself and a lot of other African American players on the tour, she paved the way for us to play because other than that, we would still be fighting to play on the tour. It's important that we recognize this, that I recognize it, and for me to know my history."

• **Tips from an old pro:** Three-time US Open champion Ivan Lendl had a little advice for young Australian Mark Philippoussis prior to the 1997 U.S. Open. Lendl, who won eight Grand Slam tennis titles before retiring in 1995, invited Philippoussis to his house in nearby Connecticut last week. But they spent more time on the golf course than the tennis court. "You know, Lendl speaks his mind, tells you straight out what he thinks," Philippoussis said. "That's what you need to hear." The veteran's advice for the young star was simple. "He said you've got to try to hit the ball in the fairway a lot more, not in the rough," Philippoussis said.

Spanish 12th seed Felix Mantilla defeated Australian Jason Stoltenberg 7-6 (7/4), 6-3, 6-2 and 14th-seeded Aussie Mark Philippoussis downed Moroccan Karim Alami 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

World No. 1 and women's top seed Martina Hingis opens her campaign on against American Tami Jones. Men's second seed Michael Chang plays Sweden's Patrik Fredriksson while unseeded but ever popular Andre Agassi headlines the night session along with fellow Olympic singles champion Lindsay Davenport.



Fireworks go off over the Arthur Ashe Stadium during the dedication ceremony for the new stadium at the U.S. Open. Singer Whitney Houston performed during the ceremony (Reuters photo)

## Tennis world pays tribute to Ashe

NEW YORK (AFP) — Old rivals and admirers paid tribute to tennis great Arthur Ashe on Monday as the U.S. Tennis Association dedicated their spectacular new stadium on the opening night of the U.S. Open.

Ashe, who became the first black man to win a Grand Slam title with his victory in the 1968 U.S. Open, went on to win the Australian Open in 1970 and Wimbledon in 1975.

But on Monday he was remembered more as a loving family man who tirelessly battled the barriers of racism in tennis and in life.

"What could be a more wonderful memorial than a tennis stadium named for Arthur Ashe, in a public park in the city he loved most in the world," said Ashe's widow, Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa attended the ceremony, and

dozens of former U.S. Open champions also turned out to celebrate Ashe's memory. Ashe won 51 singles and doubles titles during his 12-year career. He helped the United States win the Davis Cup five times as a player and captained two victorious Davis Cup teams.

He helped the USTA establish programs to make tennis accessible to disadvantaged children and minorities.

After learning he had contracted the AIDS virus, Ashe launched the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of AIDS. He died in February of 1993 at the age of 49.

The \$254 million, 23,547-seat stadium was part of a massive facelift for the decrepit National Tennis Centre, where the planes of La Guardia airport, the packed-in crowds and the sometimes dubious smells wafting over the courts

helped make the U.S. Open the most chaotic of Grand Slam tournaments.

World No. 1 and defending champion Pete Sampras, who played his first-round match against Australian qualifier Todd Larkham after the dedication ceremony, admitted he was a little sorry to leave the old stadium behind.

"The new stadium is beautiful, it seems very well put together versus the old place," Sampras said. "It's a great impression, just walking in there and seeing the new seats. The locker room facilities are much nicer."

"But I kind of miss the old stadium because it's kind of where I made my mark in '90."

Sampras captured the first of his 10 Grand Slam titles at the 1990 U.S. Open. A victory here would put him just one short of Roy Emerson's record dozen.



Anna Kournikova, 16 years old of Russia, serves to Sabine Appelmans of Belgium during her first round match at the U.S. Open. Kournikova defeated Appelmans 6-2 6-0 to advance (Reuters photo)



Top seed Pete Sampras, from the United States, hits a return to opponent Todd Larkham, from Australia, during their first round U.S. Open match. Sampras defeated Larkham 6-3 6-1 6-3 (Reuters photo)

ter. "He was just too good," Larkham said admiringly. "It got a little bit interesting at the end, with the crowd getting into it." Sampras said. "It was nice to play tonight. The conditions were nice, the light was good."

"Once I got into the match I felt pretty good about the way I played. It's a totally different feel out there. I liked it."

Monica Seles, runner-up to injured Steffi Graf in last year's final, opened the night session with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Kristie Boogert of the Netherlands.

Seles, who withdrew in the midst of a tournament in Atlanta last week with a virus and strep infection, was happy to get a relatively easy win under her belt.

"I had a temperature until Saturday," she said. "It's definitely taking a toll on my body."

The opening day upsets



Second seed Monica Seles from the United States hits a return to opponent Kristie Boogert from the Netherlands during their first round U.S. Open match (Reuters photo)

was it." Once Pescariu broke Ivanisevic in the 12th game to take the second set, it was all downhill for Ivanisevic. Pescariu got the upper hand in the fourth set with a break in the seventh game, and Ivanisevic said that even when he broke back to level the set at 5-5, he didn't feel he had a chance.

"I'm not trying to push enough," he said. "He served for the match and I broke him, and then I stopped again. It's not only my serve. Everything is not there. You can't win matches when you play like that."

Eighth-seeded German Anke Huber advanced smoothly, 6-2, 6-2 over unseeded Italian Gloria Pizzichini.

American Lisa Raymond, ranked 24th in the world, derailed 15th seeded Romanian Ruxandra Dragomir 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Two more seeded men reached the second round.

## Graf eyeing 1998 return

NEW YORK (AFP) — Reigning U.S. Open champion Steffi Graf found her return to the National Tennis Centre somewhat strange Monday, since an injured left knee prevented her from defending her title.

"I felt awkward this morning," said Graf, who joined a host of other past champions for the dedication of the new Arthur Ashe Stadium on Monday night.

"It's not so much fun to come here and not play. But it has been a fun evening. It was great to see all the past champions."

Graf had surgery on her left knee on April 21, and said she was aiming to return to competition by the 1998 Australian Open.

"I'll definitely be ready for next year," she said. "If I'll be ready before that, I don't know."

Graf said she had been undergoing rehabilitation in Austria, and had started to run and cycle. She said she



Former U.S. Open champion Steffi Graf (R), from Germany, is all smiles as she greets former champion and second seed Monica Seles of the USA during the dedication ceremony for the new Arthur Ashe stadium at the U.S. Open (Reuters photo)

hadn't really started hitting the ball, since she doesn't have enough range of movement.

"I hit a few just standing," she said. "I want to be able to move well and change direction. I want to be able to bend down and have the strength to do it. It will probably be another six to eight weeks."

Graf was asked if she might be able to defend her title at the season-ending WTA Tour Championships in November.

"That's not what I'm thinking right now," she said. "When I come back, I want to really be fit and healthy. I'm gunning for the

Australian Open."

In Graf's absence, 16-year-old Swiss Martina Hingis has taken a strange hold on the WTA Tour. But Graf dismissed suggestions that the youngster hasn't really earned the world number one ranking since she hasn't contested with Graf herself.

"She deserves to be where she is, she's played some incredible tennis this year," Graf said.

But the 28-year-old German also said that she was looking forward to challenging Hingis.

"I don't think I would try to come back if I didn't think that," she said.

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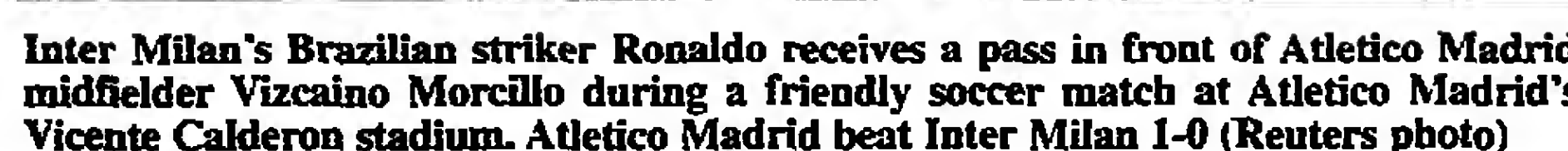


## Inter coach cannot get it right

But some 20 per cent of players in the top two divisions are from non-EU states and

**"We rarely put the forwards in a position to score, and that includes Ronaldo."**

"While Inter are hobbling, over in England, their ex-coach Hodgson has leapt to the top of the table with Blackburn," the paper said in a front-page splash.



**Minnesota Twins' Brent Brede is forced out but successfully breaks up the double play effort by Detroit Tigers' second baseman Damion Easley during the second inning (Reuters photo)**

\_\_\_\_\_

"I really enjoyed playing in a team as skilful as this one," said Dorigo, who has Italian parents. "I'd realised that Italian football is different from English, but it's interesting as well."

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## Arabs hail Japan's strong position for peace during Netanyahu's visit

DUBAI (AFP) — The Arab press on Tuesday delighted in the uncompromising stance adopted by Japanese leaders towards visiting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Latching onto comments made by Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto urging a lifting of the crippling closure of the Palestinian territories, many Arab newspapers called on Japan to use its economic muscle to pressure Israel.

"The frank criticism issued by the Japanese prime minister of Israeli policies towards the Palestinian people is a courageous position," said the London-based Arab daily Al Hayat.

"Japan considers it a duty to make the Netanyahu government understand that it cannot damage the peace process and create as a result a lack of stability in

the region while at the same time expect development of ties with Tokyo," it added.

The Egyptian government daily Al Akhbar said Mr. Netanyahu had received an "unexpected slap in the face" from Japan which had rejected repeated calls for greater economic cooperation with Israel.

"Japan did not stop at deploring the Israeli blockade... it offered \$14 million in emergency aid to buy food and medicine for the [Palestinian] people," it said.

In a two-hour meeting with Mr. Netanyahu on Monday, Mr. Hashimoto said that the Palestinians could only take part calmly in the peace process once they attain "economic self-reliance and stability."

Pessimism is spreading among Arabs and Israel should take positive steps to curb this move," Mr. Hashimoto was quoted as

saying. The closure of the occupied territories prevents 65,000 Palestinians reaching jobs in Israel and Palestinians say it is costing their economy \$5 million per day.

Mr. Netanyahu, who arrived in Japan Sunday on a four-day visit, insisted that the closure could only be lifted when terrorism was under control.

The Saudi daily Al Riyadh, which reflects the official view, said Japan had the courage to speak straight with Mr. Netanyahu, something that the leaders of Europe and the United States have been unable to do.

"Tokyo has linked investment [in Israel] to the chances of peace and that does not fit with the racist and arrogant tendencies of Mr. Netanyahu," it said.

The Al Madina Saudi daily said Japan had made a

"call for justice," and pointed out that Tokyo was protecting its interests in the Gulf — the source of 70 per cent of its oil.

"Arab countries hope that other states, especially the U.S., will follow Japan's lead in their attitude towards the Israeli-Arab conflict," said the paper.

The Qatari newspaper Al Sharq said Japan's robust position had come as "a lesson and a shock for Benjamin Netanyahu and his government."

The paper said Japan had shown that the world is not prepared to cooperate with Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing nationalist government as long as it sticks to its current policies.

The Israeli-Palestinian peace process collapsed in March when Israel began building a 6,500-unit Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem.

## Turkish-Cypriot leader warns of war in Cyprus

ANKARA (AP) — Rauf Denktaş, the leader of the breakaway Turkish-Cypriot state, has warned that war could break out if the European Union (EU) admits Cyprus, a Turkish newspaper said Tuesday.

"If Greek-Cypriots become members of the EU, all rights of the Turkish-Cypriots will disappear," Turkish daily Hurriyet quoted Mr. Denktaş as saying from Cyprus. "The solution to this is war."

The east Mediterranean island has been unofficially partitioned since a 1974 Turkish invasion in the wake of an abortive coup by supporters of union with Greece.

"If we don't want [war], we should take measures now to prevent the Greek-Cypriots from taking that

route," Mr. Denktaş was quoted as saying.

In Rome, Italy's foreign minister, Lamberto Dini, called for the EU to negotiate with both Greek and Turkish-Cypriots.

"It has to recognise that two republics exist ... in Cyprus, there are two entities, two governments in Cyprus," he said at a news conference with his Turkish counterpart, Ismail Cem.

The Turkish-Cypriot state, declared in the north of the island in 1983, is formally recognised only by Turkey.

Greek-Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides reacted by saying, "when Denktaş speaks of war, what does he mean. Will he wage war against Cyprus, or the European Union?"

Turkey and Mr. Denktaş strongly oppose the admis-

sion of Cyprus without the consent of the Turkish-Cypriot administration or without the admission of Turkey itself to the EU.

Turkey argues Cyprus' admission to the EU would amount to the island joining Greece, already an EU member.

The EU has rejected this position, arguing that Cyprus' admission would help to reunify the island.

Meanwhile, the Turkish foreign ministry summoned Russian and Greek-Cypriot diplomats to stress its opposition to a missile deal, the Anatolia News Agency said.

Russia plans to deliver S-300 air defence missiles to Cyprus next year, Turkey says the missiles are a threat and has threatened a pre-emptive strike if they are deployed.

## Russian FM Primakov in first high-level visit to Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov is to meet Turkish leaders here in October, the first such visit by a top Moscow figure since the collapse of the Soviet Union, a Russian diplomat said Tuesday.

"The visit has been planned for a long time and is seen as a major opportunity to boost ties," the diplomat told AFP. The visit's exact date is to be set in the next few weeks.

The new Turkish government (of Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz) has expressed willingness for better ties with Russia and this is also our wish," the diplomat added.

NATO-member Turkey and Russia have boosted economic and commercial relations in recent years, with their two-way trade exceeding \$10 billion last year according to officials from both countries. The figure includes estimated unofficial trade figures.

However, on the political front they are involved in a number of disputes.

Turkey has been angered by a recent Russian decision to sell advanced S-300 surface-to-air missiles to the Greek-Cypriot government, but Moscow is determined to go ahead with the sale despite Ankara's protests.

During the Chechnya war, Moscow accused Ankara of failing to prevent some Turkish groups from sending arms and volunteers to the Muslim separatists in the autonomous Russian republic.

Ankara in return charged that Moscow with allowing separatist Turkish Kurds to operate in Russia. The two countries are also at odds over oil tanker traffic from the Black Sea and through the Turkish straits.

Russia wants to transport oil reaching its Black Sea port of Novorossiysk from vast petrol fields in the Caspian Sea zone to international markets with tankers passing via the Turkish straits.

Turkey, also willing to have the Caspian oil flow to its Mediterranean port of Ceyhan, is staunchly opposed to the Russian plan, citing dangers of increased oil traffic through the straits.

In late June Mr. Yilmaz replaced Turkey's Islamist former Premier Necmettin Erbakan, during whose term Turkish-Russian relations were generally dormant despite a visit by his Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller to Moscow last December.

Former Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev had been in Turkey a couple of times on the occasion of international meetings, but those did not have the status of an official visit.



ISRAELI TEARGAS HITS GIRL'S SCHOOL: A Palestinian policeman carries a school girl in tears as a school is evacuated Tuesday when tear gas shot by Israeli soldiers landed outside a school. The entire Palestinian school of several hundred girls had to be evacuated as a result of the gas, and several of the school girls were rushed away in Palestinian ambulances (See story on page 1) (Reuters photo)

## Palestinians protest UNRWA school fees

GAZA (R) — Palestinians in Gaza demonstrated Tuesday against the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) imposing a fee to study in its schools, witnesses said.

Dozens of Palestinians demonstrated in front of the UNRWA headquarters carrying Palestinian flags and chanting, "we are still refugees" and "we are deprived of education."

Stones were thrown by a few children.

UNRWA, citing financial difficulties, has imposed a \$14 fee for children to study in its schools. The Palestinian school year began on August 23.

Palestinian refugees, who attend the UNRWA schools, find the fee a burden, especially during the current Israeli closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip that has kept tens of thousands of Palestinians from mostly menial jobs in Israel.

"Isn't it enough that our people are deprived of work in Israel and of treatment in hospitals outside the Gaza

Strip as a result of the closure?" Palestinian lawmaker Wajih Yaghi, who took part in the protest, said.

"As refugees we are entitled to free education, to free medication. And the refugees are in need of improving their living conditions not worsening them," Mr. Yaghi said.

UNRWA in a statement last week said it was compelled by financial difficulties to impose the fee. It exempted orphans and severe hardship cases from the payment.

UNRWA officials were not available to comment on the financial problems compelling the school fee.

"We're discussing the matter with [UNRWA Commissioner Peter] Hansen," Palestinian President Yasser Arafat told reporters Saturday. "He's facing a budget deficit, but we've started with him contacting [international] donors to cover up the deficit."

The Palestinian refugee camps popular committees called for a boycott of

UNRWA schools to protest the fee decision.

Friday's Palestinian National Authority weekly cabinet meeting called on students to attend classes in all schools.

Last year, UNRWA officials put the agency's 1996 budget deficit at \$45 million and said the agency was facing increasing financial problems as a result of the rapidly growing refugee population at 3.8 per cent a year. UNRWA appealed to donor states to make contributions to cover the deficit.

UNRWA was set up after the 1948 Middle East war to aid Palestinians made refugees during the conflict.

It renders services to millions of Palestinian refugees in the territories and in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria who fled their towns and villages during the war and after the creation of the state of Israel in the same year.

In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA operates 267 primary and middle schools where 187,673 children study.

## Sudan peace talks on; Garang postpones Mandela meeting

PRETORIA (AFP) — Sudanese rebel chief Colonel John Garang has postponed a meeting Tuesday with President Nelson Mandela, but will attend weekend peace talks in Pretoria with opponents in the Khartoum regime, Mr. Mandela's office said.

"Garang is not coming today because of logistical problems basically related to transport," South African presidential spokesman Parks Mankahlana said.

"We expect him to be here before the talks over the weekend, the meeting is definitely taking place and everyone will be here. The conference will last probably over two days," he added.

The Sudanese government is due to send a delegation for the meeting although Khartoum has not confirmed whether junta leader General Omar Bashir will be present at the talks.

Also expected to take part in the discussions are Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's head of state and president of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), and Ugandan leader Yoweri Museveni, whose relations with Sudan are at a low ebb.

The governments of Uganda and Sudan have frequently traded accusations of support for each other's rebel movements.

Mr. Mandela earlier stressed he wanted only to be a peace "facilitator" in the Sudan conflict but stepped up his efforts after a subsequent peace encounter, under the aegis of the east African IGAD (Inter-governmental Authority on Development) was cancelled before its start date of August 19 in Nairobi.

The South African initiative is being conducted hand-in-hand with the east African venture, under the leadership of Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi.

Last Thursday, a spokesman for Col. Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), John Luk Jok, said "the SPLA is not aware of any imminent meeting between Garang and Bashir."

Planning of the August 29-30 summit followed a surprise visit by Gen. Bashir to Pretoria on August 12. At the time, Mr. Mandela urged the parties to sit down with each other, and called for a ceasefire to end Sudan's crippling 14-year civil war.

Gen. Bashir said he agreed with the ceasefire proposal, adding that his government was committed to "self-determination" for the southern part of the country, where Col. Garang's followers have waged war since 1983 to end domination of mainly animist and Christian peoples by the Islamist north.

On Monday, a former ally of Col. Garang who now leads a breakaway movement, Riek Machar, said that a delegation from Khartoum would go to Pretoria this month whether the SPLA chief showed up or not.

Both Gen. Bashir's government and the South Sudan Coordination Council, which Machar chairs, will "proceed to Pretoria talks ... to explain last year's peace agreement and to discuss ways for normalisation of relations with Uganda," Mr. Machar said in Khartoum press reports.

Mr. Machar, whose own movement, the United Democratic Salvation Front, cut a deal with Khartoum last April alongside other dissident southern factions, said he would attend talks on the government side.

The SPLA has fought successive Khartoum regimes since 1983 to end domination of the mainly animist and Christian south of Sudan by the Islamist and Arabised north.

Mr. Mandela has been involved in several African peace initiatives in recent months, including efforts to end the six-month civil war in the then Zaire prior to the takeover by Laurent Kabila's forces, who routed Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko in May and set up the Democratic Republic of Congo.

## 'Rubber lipped' Jagger picks out wardrobe

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Belgian couturier Olivier Strelli is delighted as rubber-lipped Rolling Stone Mick Jagger has picked his designs for the legendary group's latest "Bridges in Babylon" world tour. "Mick Jagger saw some of our designs in an American magazine and asked to see them," Strelli told Belgian reporters. "I didn't believe it at first when we were contacted in July and after sending him eight designs he asked for ... he answered by fax indicating his choice," he added. The stage-prancing 54-year-old rocker's fancy includes a figure-hugging red velvet coat and matching trousers, as well as a short velvet tiger-print coat in gold, brown and burgundy.

## Will Demi's buzz set a new fashion?

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Demi Moore says her three daughters loved her shaved head look when she was buzzed during the "G.I. Jane" filming. "They loved to run their hands through the short-cropped hair," Moore says about the short haircut. "It was cool. They even told their friends about it, saying stuff like 'Look at my mom's new hair.' Then, they wanted to get their haircuts cut like it, too, but I didn't let them." Meanwhile, Moore's short hair is plastered all over the country on billboards, and a 14-story painting has her shaved head on the famous Sunset Strip in Hollywood.

## Japanese princess beats Steven Spielberg's dinosaurs

TOKYO (AFP) — A movie about a 14th century Japanese princess who fights to save forests has grossed \$54 million since its Japanese debut in mid-July, beating Steven Spielberg's "Lost World" a film distributor said Tuesday. The animated film "The Princess of Mononoke" has attracted 7.7 million viewers in Japan so far and set an earnings record for a Japanese movie, a spokesman for Toho Co. Ltd. said. Spielberg's "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" attracted five million people in Japan during the same period, according to a spokesman for its distributor United International Pictures Far East.

## Stallone puts Miami mansion up for sale

MIAMI (R) — Actor Sylvester Stallone, family man, is looking for smaller digs and has put his spectacular Miami bayfront mansion up for sale, a real estate agent said on Tuesday. The asking price, \$27.5 million. The home — 2,230 sq. m. on nearly 4.7 hectares of prime bayside bay-front property — would be south Florida's most expensive private residence if it sold at that price. Stallone bought it in 1993 for \$8 million, then a record.

## Bob Dylan to sing for Pope

ROME (AP) — Bob Dylan will sing for a very special audience next month: Pope John Paul II. The Vatican announced the concert Tuesday, which will be in Bologna at the world Eucharistic congress on September 27. "This will not simply be a concert, but an occasion for the Pope to meet young people," said Monsignor Ernesto Vecchi, head of the organisational committee. The 56-year-old musician was hospitalised this summer for an infection that caused swelling in the sac around his heart.

## Baghdad says Turkish army continues to attack north Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf said Tuesday that Turkey was still carrying out military operations against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq.

"Turkish military attacks are still continuing against Iraqi territory and people in the northern governorates," the Iraqi News Agency reported Mr. Sahaf as saying in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Turkey said in June that it

had withdrawn most of its forces from the region after a six-week campaign against Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels who use bases in the mountains to strike Turkey.

Mr. Sahaf said Turkish troops had mounted 19 military operations in northern Iraq between the massive withdrawal in late June and August 12.

"Such Turkish violations represent a flagrant breach of the United Nations charter," Mr. Sahaf said.

The Arab League con-

demned the operation as a violation of Iraqi territory. Northern Iraq has been under Iraqi-Kurdish control since the end of the 1991 Gulf war, but Turkey says a power vacuum there has allowed the PKK to flourish.

A Western air force shields Iraq's Kurds from any attack by Baghdad.

More than 24,000 people have died since 1984 in conflicts between the army and PKK, which is fighting for Kurdish self-rule in southeast Turkey.

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When Mayor Hanna Nass  
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